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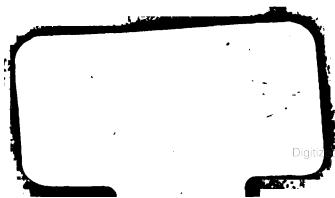
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GREENWICH:
ITS HISTORY,
ANTIQUITIES, IMPROVEMENTS,
AND
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

BY
HENRY S. RICHARDSON.
ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD BY G. BAXTER,
FROM DRAWINGS BY W. B. MACKIE.

"Olim parva fuit Grenovicum villa, sed orta

"Virginia Augusta clarius urbe micat."

GREENWICH:
HARRIET RICHARDSON, STOCKWELL STREET.

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P R E F A C E.

. It has not been the aim of the Compiler of this small volume, to enter into a full detail of the History of Greenwich, his object being merely to give the OUTLINES of its History, together with those peculiar features of the Town and immediate neighborhood which, for a long series of years, have drawn, and still continue to draw, the attention of strangers from all parts of the Kingdom. At the same time, however, it has been his study to introduce every incident that could be considered either of importance or of interest to the Parishioners.

That such a work is a desideratum with the public, no stronger proof is needed than the frequent inquiries made by visitors, at the various

booksellers' shops in the Town, for a publication of this nature as a guide to their perambulations; and if the want thus shown to exist can be supplied by the present unobtrusive and unpretending production, the intention of the Author is accomplished, and the employment of his leisure hours will not be unrewarded.

He embraces this opportunity of thankfully acknowledging the kindness of those Friends who have furnished him with information, or otherwise aided him in his undertaking.

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Church of St. Mary	<i>To face page 107</i>

** This view having been taken from the New Burial Ground for the purpose of giving the west front of the Church, (all those now existing being taken from the centre of the Town,) the Artist, in the drawing, has been compelled to raise the walls of the Burial Ground and Church Yard, to avoid obstructing the view of the lower part of the Church.*

CHAPTER I.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, POPULATION, IMPROVEMENTS, &c.

THERE are no Towns in the immediate vicinity of the Metropolis that possess greater and more varied attractions for visitors or residents than Greenwich; its beautiful Park and splendid Hospital rendering it at once a convenient and delightful place of recreation. It is situate five miles E. S. E. from London, in the Hundred of Blackheath,* Lathe of Sutton-at-Hone, County of Kent; and, with the adjacent Towns and Villages of Deptford, Woolwich, Charlton, and Plumstead, forms the newly-created Borough of Greenwich. Its ancient Saxon denomination was "Grenawic," the termination of the word being now corrupted into "wich," and was called in Latin "*Grenovicum viridis sinus a viridariis*," signifying the "Green Town." It was formerly designated East Greenwich, to distinguish it from West Greenwich, now called Deptford.

* This Hundred is called in Domesday the "Hundred of Grenviz," but was altered to "Blackheath" in the 7th King Edward I.

The Town is pleasantly seated at the base, and on the north-western declivity of a range of heights which forms the southern boundary of the vale of the Thames. It was originally nothing more than a small fishing town, and is mentioned as such in the reign of Henry V.

In the reign of Ethelred, 1009, the Danes sent a large army into England, which committed the most terrible devastation. To repulse these invaders the King assembled the whole power of his subjects, and would, probably, have terminated their ravages,* had not Earl Edricke, "with forged tales devised onely to put him in feare," dissuaded him from engaging with them; the Danes, being thus enabled to return to their ships in safety, remained the winter following with their fleet stationed in the Thames off Greenwich, while their army was encamped on Blackheath. In Sept., 1011, being disappointed in the payment of a certain tribute which they claimed as due to them, they laid siege to the City of Canterbury, which was bravely defended by the citizens for twenty days, but was at length taken through the treachery of a Deacon named Almaricus, whom the Archbishop Alphege had rescued from death a short time previous: having plundered and burnt the City, and massacred nine-tenths of the inhabitants, without distinction of age or sex,

* As a proof of these ravages, Lambarde states that out of thirty-two Shires, into which England was then divided, they ransacked sixteen.

they brought from thence the Archbishop Alphege* to their camp, and having kept him prisoner there for seven months, cruelly stoned him to death on the spot where the Parish Church of Greenwich now stands, (and which is dedicated to him in honor of his martyrdom,) because he refused to exact three thousand pounds from the farmers and tenants of his diocese, which exorbitant sum they had demanded for his ransom.† He was afterwards canonized as a Saint, and the Church observed the 19th of April as his festival, being the day on which he was murdered. His body was left unburied for some time, in consequence of a quarrel which arose among the soldiers, some being for delivering up the body for honorable interment, and others for throwing it into the Thames; and though a miracle‡

* "Alphege," says Bp. Mant, "was an Englishman of a most holy and austere life, which was the more admirable in him because he was born of great parentage, and began that course of life in his younger years. He was, first, Abbot of Bath, then, in the year 984, Bishop of Winchester, and twelve years afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury."

† Holinshed's Chronicles, p. 246.

‡ Lambarde, in his "Perambulation of Kent," p. 430, says, "Neither would the rest of the souldiers suffer his body to be committed to the earth, after the maner of christian decencie, till such time as they perceived that a dead sticke, being annointed with his blood, waxed suddenly greene againe, and began the next day to blossome, which by all likehood was gathered in the woode of Dea Feronia, for she was a Goddess whome the Poets do phantasie to have caused a whole woode that was on fire to waxe greene againe."

is said to have gained over the latter party, the most credible account is that the citizens of London purchased the body at a high price. It was first buried in the church of St. Paul, London, but was removed ten years afterwards to Canterbury, and re-interred with much solemnity.

From the encampment of the Danes at this place may be traced the names of East Coombe and West Coombe, two estates on the borders of Blackheath; —*coomb* as well as *comp* signifying *camp*; *coomb* being probably the Saxon term, and *comp* the Danish or corrupt Saxon, both of which were then in use.

The present opulence and importance of the Town of Greenwich may, perhaps, be attributed to the establishment, first, of a royal residence, of which traces occur as early as 1300, and ultimately of the Royal Hospital.

The annexed table will exhibit its increase according to the three last returns to Parliament.

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Houses Building.	Total.
1811	2,315	66	47	2,428
1821	3,007	346	17	3,370
1831	3,665	245	57	3,967
	No. of Families.	No. of Males	No. of Females.	Total Population.
1811	3,276	8,723	8,224	16,947
1821	4,002	10,740	9,972	20,712
1831	4,839	12,800	11,753	24,553

And doubtless a reference to the Parochial assessment would afford a still more forcible illustration

of this point, did it fall within the object of the present work to pursue the inquiry further.

The following, however, will show the increase of population according to the census taken at each of the periods 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831.

	Total No. of Inhabitants.	Increase in 10 years.	Increase in 20 years	Increase in 30 years.
1801	14,339			
1811	16,947	2,608		
1821	20,712	3,765	6,373	
1831	24,553	3,841	7,606	10,214

During the ten years from 1821 to 1830 the average number was of

Marriages	Baptisms	Burials
85	563	716

The population of Greenwich has increased much more in proportion than the adjoining towns, as will be seen by the following table:—

	1811	1821	1831
Greenwich	16,947	20,712	24,553
St. Paul, Deptford .	12,748	13,525	13,759
St. Nicholas,* Do. .	7,085	6,337	6,036
Woolwich	17,054	17,008	17,661

The Town is well paved; lighted with gas (for which an Act of Parliament was obtained in 1823); and supplied with water by the Kent Water-works at Deptford. Numerous improvements have been

* The decrease in the population of this Parish is chiefly to be attributed to the reduction of the Government Establishments there.

made in the Town during the last few years, which have greatly altered its appearance: to show the rural character of the place to a very recent period, it may be mentioned that within the last twenty years there were posts and rails to divide the foot-path from the road on Croom's Hill, and that till the year 1813 there were trees standing in the very centre of the Town, nearly opposite the Church. London Street, the leading thoroughfare on entering the Town from the Metropolis, has also, within the last thirty years, assumed a much altered appearance in its change of character from a street of private residences to one of commerce, almost every house within it now presenting a shop frontage; whereas, at the period alluded to, the shops were very few in number, and almost wholly confined to that end of the street nearest the centre of the Town.

Among the most prominent improvements may be noticed the following. The erection of the Creek Bridge and Bridge Street, the passage over the Ravensbourne at that place having previously been by a ferry, the approach to which was through Lamb Lane. The erection of Vansittart Terrace and Bexley Place. The re-building of Queen Elizabeth's College. The widening of Maize Hill. The erection of Park Street, Park Terrace, and Maize Hill Chapel on a piece of ground on which stood a mansion formerly in the occupation of Sir Gregory Page, Sir Walter James, and more recently

of Dr. Crombie, and which was pulled down in 1822. The new cut called Hyde Vale, leading from Royal Hill to Conduit Vale. The alteration at the foot of Blackheath Hill where the roads to Blackheath, Lewisham, Deptford, and Greenwich meet, the previous abrupt turning of the road having occasioned numerous accidents. The improvement of Limekiln Lane now called South Street. The formation of Nelson Street, leading direct from Church Street to the Royal Hospital and Woolwich; and the continuation of this improvement in the formation of Trafalgar Road, by which the former circuitous route to Woolwich is avoided. The lower Woolwich Road has also been materially improved since it was made a turnpike road, as previous to that the trees on each side of the road nearly met, and in some places the footpath was considerably above the road.

The most recent improvement is that of the widening the thoroughfare near the Parish Church of St. Alphege, and the throwing open of that splendid edifice to public view. This improvement, the idea of which had long been entertained by the Parishioners, was at last effected through the medium of an accident. On Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 1829, a fire broke out on the premises in tenure of Mr. Pratt, a grocer, which communicating with the premises in the occupation of Mr. Teulon and others on the one side, and the Mitre Tavern on the other, injured the former, and destroyed the latter with the house in which the fire first origin-

ated, excepting some buildings in the rear of the Mitre. This misfortune having given a fresh stimulus to the desires of the Parishioners, a public meeting was held in the Vestry-room to consider the propriety of embracing the opportunity thus afforded them of purchasing the portion of ground necessary for their purpose, and it was unanimously determined that it would be highly expedient to purchase the freehold interest of Roan's Charity, to which the property belonged, and the leasehold interest of the tenants, and forthwith apportion a part to the public highway and the remainder to the Church-yard, by which means more room would be afforded for the interment of the Parishioners, and their other object be also accomplished. A subscription was accordingly entered into, and after a protracted discussion of some months, occasioned by the doubt as to the legality of the power possessed by the Feoffees of the Charity to dispose of the property, and the difficulty of legislating economically for the Parish without infringement of the interests of the Charity, it was finally resolved that one house* should be erected on the south-west portion of the ground, another portion added to the Church-yard,† and the remainder to the

* The first stone of this building, for a tavern and hotel, to be called by the same name as that which was destroyed, namely the "Mitre," was laid April 7th, 1830, and the house was opened in 1831.

† This ground was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Rochester, after a Confirmation, held June 6th, 1833.

highway. The road, by this alteration, now forms a more direct communication with Nelson Street, and by the addition of an iron pedestal with three lamps, which was fixed Feb. 26th, 1833, imparts a handsome appearance to the centre of the Town. A new Market-place has also been erected by the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital,* near the site of the former one, which was opened March 26th, 1831: it contains spacious accommodation for venders of meat, fish, vegetables, &c., and the whole, when completed, will be surrounded with shops. The Market days are Wednesday and Saturday.

The Commissioners of the Hospital have also in contemplation the forming of a handsome street leading to the water-side in continuation of King Street, which, with other alterations in progress below the Market-place, will materially improve that part of the Town.

There are two annual Fairs, which are held in Bridge Street on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Easter and Whitsun weeks, and are noted for the great concourse of people, from London and the neighbourhood, by which they are attended. This fair was formerly held in a road now occupied partly by the New Church of St. Mary, and the remainder by the Hospital Burial Ground.

* The profits of the Market being invested in Henry, Earl of Romney, were given by him, in the year 1700, to the Royal Hospital.

The Town is within the jurisdiction of the County magistrates, who hold a Petty Session at the Greyhound Inn, Stockwell Street, every Tuesday, and of whom one or more are in daily attendance at the office in George Street. It is also within the range of the Metropolitan Police Act.

By the Reform Bill which received the Royal Assent June 7th, 1832, Greenwich, conjointly with Deptford, Woolwich, Charlton, and Plumstead, was created a Borough to return two Members to Parliament, under the title of the "Borough of Greenwich:" in the Boundary Act the limits are thus defined:—"From the point at which the Royal Arsenal Canal at Woolwich joins the River Thames, along the said Canal to the southern extremity thereof; thence, in a straight line, to the south-western corner of the Ordnance Storekeeper's house; thence, in a straight line, in the direction of a stile in the footpath from Woolwich to Plumstead Common, over Sand Hill, to the boundary of the Parish of Woolwich; thence, southward, along the boundary of the Parish of Woolwich, to the point at which the same meets the boundary of the Parish of Charlton; thence, westward, along the boundary of the Parish of Charlton, to the point at which the same turns southward near the Dovor Road; thence, along the Dovor Road, to the nearest point of the boundary of the Parish of Greenwich; thence, westward, along the boundary of the Parish of Greenwich, to the point at which the same turns abruptly

to the south, close by the Dovor Road ; thence, in a straight line, in a westerly direction, to the nearest point of the boundary of the Parish of Greenwich ; thence, westward, along the boundary of the Parish of Greenwich, to the point at which the same meets the boundary of the Parish of St. Paul, Deptford ; thence, southward, along the boundary of the Parish of St. Paul, Deptford, to the point at which the same meets the River Thames ; thence, along the River Thames, to the point first described."

In 1557, during the reign of Philip and Mary, the inhabitants sent two Members to Parliament, namely, Thomas Farnham and John Sackvil, Esquires,* but this was the only return ever made previous to the passing of the late Act.

The Assizes for the County were held here three times during the reign of Elizabeth, namely in 1558, 1561, and 1562.

Greenwich gave title to that eminent and illustrious soldier, John Campbell, Duke of Argyle ; he was created Baron of Chatham and Earl of Greenwich, in the reign of Queen Anne, Nov. 26, 1705 ; and in the reign of George I, April 30, 1719, in consideration of his great services to the nation, he was advanced to the dignity of Duke of Greenwich. The Duke dying in 1743, without male issue, his eldest daughter, Lady Caroline Campbell, was created, in 1760, Baroness of Greenwich, in her own

* Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria, p. 56.

right, with remainder to her heirs male by her second husband, the Hon. Charles Townshend. Lady Greenwich having survived her sons, who died without male issue, the title became extinct at her death in 1794. Where the family resided is not known to the Author; but there is a stone in the Church-yard of the neighbouring Parish of Lee, in commemoration of a domestic of Lady Greenwich.

There was formerly a magazine for gunpowder, for the use of government, in Greenwich Marshes, but the inhabitants having in a petition represented the dangerous consequences to the Town and neighbourhood in case of accident, it was removed, in 1760, to Purfleet.

The funes igniarii, or matches which the soldiers used for their muskets, before the invention of firelocks, were fabricated here.*

Dr. Johnson, the lexicographer, had lodgings here in 1737, and directs a letter, dated July 12th, from next door to an inn or public house in Church Street then called the "Golden Heart." He composed a great part of his "Irene" during his walks in the Park.†

Greenwich has been the place of debarkation of many illustrious visitors, and several royal personages; among which may be noticed the Princess Augusta of Saxe Gotha, afterwards married to Frederick, Prince of Wales; and the Princess Caroline

* Hasted's History of Kent, vol. 1, p. 28.

† Boswell's Johnson, vol. 1, p. 76.

of Brunswick, consort of George IV. But the most memorable event of this description was the landing of the remains of Lord Nelson after the battle of Trafalgar, in 1805. A public funeral having been decreed, the body laid in state in the Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of Jan., 1806, when it was computed that 30,000 persons were admitted into the hall on each day.* The body was conveyed by water to the Admiralty, Jan. 8th, and deposited the next day in St. Paul's Cathedral, accompanied in procession by several members of the Royal Family, and the principal Officers of State, Prelates, and Nobility, with a military force of nearly 8,000 men. The splendid funeral car, on which Nelson's remains were borne to the Cathedral, was presented to Greenwich Hospital by the Earl of Dartmouth, (whose perquisite it was as Lord Chamberlain,) and it remained for some time in the Painted Hall, a sad, though interesting, memorial of the lamented Admiral: it was removed a few years since in consequence of its decayed condition.

In 1798, on account of the rebellion in Ireland, and the success of the French arms, the Government considered it necessary for the safety of the kingdom, that Volunteer and other forces should

* Notwithstanding the immense multitude of visitors the utmost order was preserved, and the corps of Loyal Greenwich Volunteers, who were placed for the time on permanent duty, received the thanks of Lord Hood for their effective assistance.

be embodied; accordingly three corps were formed in Greenwich under the titles of "The Blackheath Cavalry," "The Loyal Greenwich Volunteer Infantry," and "The River Fencibles." At the conclusion of the war in 1802, the two latter corps were disbanded, but were again embodied upon war being proclaimed with France in 1803.

The Blackheath Cavalry consisted of about 50 troopers, inhabitants of Greenwich and its environs; and in 1802 the Woolwich troop, consisting of about the same number, was incorporated with it. This corps was under the command of Sir T. Wilson, Bart., of Charlton House, and was disbanded in 1809.

The corps of Loyal Greenwich Volunteer Infantry, of which the late Robert Campbell, Esq. was Colonel-Commandant, consisted of a Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, 8 Captains, 10 Lieutenants, 6 Ensigns, an Adjutant, Quarter-Master, Sergeant-Major, 24 Sergeants, 24 Corporals, 21 Drummers, and 480 Privates, making a total of 579, and forming 8 companies. This Corps received regular pay from Government: the Officers funded their portion for the extra expences of the corps, and on closing the accounts a portion of the surplus was expended in building six Jubilee Alms Houses, (a description of which will be found under the head of "Charities,") and the remainder appropriated to other charitable purposes, among which were the following:—In April, 1811, the sum of £21. to the distressed inhabitants of Portugal; in the same year, £21. to the British prisoners in France; in Jan., 1813, £50.

towards the Russian subscription; in July, 1813, £21. to the sufferers in Canada; and in July, 1815, £50.* towards the Waterloo Subscription. The colours were presented by Lady Hood, which, when the corps was disbanded in 1809, were deposited at the Commandant's; they are now in the possession of the Lieutenant-Colonel, E. W. Forman, Esq.

The River Fencibles consisted of a Commandant, 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 24 Masters, 24 Mates, and 157 Gunners and Privates. Government only provided pikes for this corps, the men defraying their own expences; they also purchased two brass field-pieces on Gover's principle, and supplied them with the requisite ammunition. In the expedition to Copenhagen in 1808, this loyal corps furnished 2 officers and 126 men; and also 2 officers and 130 men at the taking of the island of Walcheren, on the coast of Holland, when two of their number were killed. They were disbanded about 1814.

The equipments and discipline of these several corps were very complete, and at the various reviews, field-days, &c., altogether presented an imposing appearance, and reflected the greatest credit on the loyalty of the inhabitants of Greenwich and its environs at that eventful period.

* This sum, together with a collection at the Parish Church amounting to £257. 8s. 5d., after a most impressive Sermon by the late Rev. G. Mathew; and private subscriptions to the amount of £134. 14s. 7d., making a total of £442. 3s., was collected in this Parish alone for the relief of the Waterloo sufferers.

CHAPTER II.

THE MANOR.

Greenwich and Coombe were appendages to the adjoining Manor of Lewisham, and were given with it to the Church of St. Peter of Gant or Ghent, by Elstrudis, King Alfred's niece, for "the safety of her soul, and of her lord, Earl Baldwin, and of her sons, Annulfus and Adelulphus;" and King Edgar in his charter, dated August, 964, at the instance of Archbishop Dunstan, confirmed the above grant of the Manor, under the denomination of "Lewisham with its appertenances; viz. Greenwich, Woolwich, Mottingham, and Coomb."*

King Edward the Confessor, in a charter dated 1044, also confirmed this gift, with the Churches; an additional piece of land, and several privileges; and it was again confirmed by William the Conqueror in 1081.†

The Hundred of Blackheath, prior to the year 1279, was called the Hundred of Grenviz: the following is a translation from Domesday Book,

* See copy of King Edgar's charter, "Kimbell's Greenwich Charities," p. 8.

† Kimbell's Charities, pp. 10 and 13.

compiled by order of William the Conqueror, and completed in 1086 :

“In Greenwich Hundred.*—The Bishop of Lisieux holds Greenwich of the Bishop of Baieux. It is rated at 2 sowlings. There are 2 ploughs in the demesne, and 24 villains have 4 ploughs; 4 bondsmen; 1 cottager; and 5 servants. Here are 4 mills of 70s.; 22 acres of meadow; 40 acres of pasture; and a wood of 10 hogs. These 2 sowlings were separate Manors under the Saxon government; Earl Harold occupied one and Brixii the other, but

* In the reign of Edward the Confessor the Hundred of Greenwich comprised seven distinct Hamlets: namely Grenviz, Lee, Cerletone [Charlton], Altenham [Eltham], Witenemers [Wricklesmarsh], Levesham, and Hulviz [Woolwich]. The place whence the name was assumed was divided into two Manors, analogous to our East and West Greenwich. To Greenwich, occupied by the Bishop of Lisieux as sub-tenant of the brother of the Conqueror, two sowlings adjoining to Deptford, (then denominated *Mereton*, or *the Town in the Marshes*,) in the Hundred of Brixton, and included under its Manorial jurisdiction as part of the County of Surrey in the days of the Confessor and early part of William's reign, were annexed by the Earl to his principality of Kent in 1272, which was clearly proved in evidence before a jury of the district. When this military retainer was summoned to account for this infraction of the royal demesne, he appealed to his feudal chieftain as his protector, who had guaranteed the possession to him. The Commissioners then cited the bailiff of the Bishop of Baieux, to prove by what title such lands were seized by him and conveyed to his lord's vassal; but so great was the independent power and authority of Odo, that his deputy refused to plead, and

they are now united. Their joint value was £8., they are now estimated at £12.”*

According to the above extract Greenwich was in the possession of the Bishop of Lisieux; though there is no evidence to show how the Church of Gant was deprived of this portion of the Manor;† but it appears they were again in possession of it in the reign of Henry I, as that Monarch confirmed to them the original grant of Elstrudis. It remained in their occupancy until the suppression of the alien Priors throughout England in 1414, by the statute of Henry V, when the Manor of Lewisham became the property of the crown. The following year the King settled it on his newly-founded House, or Carthusian Priory of Jesus of Bethlehem, at Shene, and granted a license to the Prior to sue in the Exchequer for all rights, perquisites, &c. belonging to the Manor.

In the grant made by King Henry VI in 1433, to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, to enclose 200 acres of land in Greenwich, it stated that 40 acres

considered himself superior to their control. William probably overlooked this encroachment, and deemed such a possession of too inconsiderable importance for which to cite Odo before the high National Council: hence the knights of this Norman noble continued to hold the district without further molestation.—*Henshall's History of South Britain, compiled from the Autograph of Domesday*, p. 69.

* Henshall's Translation of Domesday, p. 44.

† It is probable that the Bishop of Baieux might have been in possession of the Manor through holding some preferment in the Church of St. Peter of Gant.

were parcel of the Manor which belonged to the Priory of Shene, of the foundation of Henry V; and in another grant made to the Duke in 1437, to enclose a similar portion of land, it recited that 17 acres of pasture, &c. of this quantity also, belonged to the Priory of Shene.

Greenwich having now been for some time the site of a royal residence, the possession of this Manor, as well as Lewisham, by the Monks gave continual umbrage to the inhabitants of the Palace; they retained possession of them, however, until the reign of Henry VIII, who, less scrupulous than his father in these matters, found means, in 1530, to obtain the surrender of these Manors, and to annex them to the patrimony of the crown. In the 29th year of his reign, he granted the office of Steward of his Manor of Greenwich to Sir Thomas Speke for life; and, at his death, Edward VI granted it to Sir Thomas Darcy, of Chiche.*

This Manor remained part of the royal demesnes till the death of King Charles I, in 1648, when it became the property of the state. In the ordinance, passed July 16th, 1649, for the sale of the crown lands, was a clause providing that the same should not extend to the Manor of East Greenwich, nor to the House, Park, Castle, or any buildings thereunto belonging,† which, therefore, again reverted to the crown, as part of the royal patrimony, on the restoration of King Charles II, in 1660, in which possession it has remained ever since.

* Hasted's Kent, vol. 1, p. 15. † Scobel's Acts.

CHAPTER III.

THE MANOR OF PLEAZAUNCE.

A royal residence is noticed here as early as the reign of King Edward the I, when that Monarch made an offering of seven shillings at each of the holy crosses in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, and the Prince an offering of half that sum:* though by whom the Palace was erected is not known.

King Henry IV dates his will from his Manor of Greenwich, Jan. 22, 1408; this place appears to have been his favorite residence.

Henry V granted this Manor for life to his kinsman, Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter; and soon after the Duke's decease in 1417, it passed to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who, in 1433, obtained a grant of 200 acres of land in Greenwich, for the purpose of enclosing it as a Park. In 1437 he obtained a similar grant, and in it licenset† was given to the Duke, and Eleanor his wife, "their Manor of Greenwich to embattle and build with

* Lyson's Environs of London, vol. 4, p. 429.

† At this period it was not lawful for any man to fortify his house, or raise a place of defence, without license from the crown, for fear of internal sedition.

stone, and to enclose and make a tower and ditch within the same, and a certain tower within his park to build and edify." Accordingly, soon after this, he commenced building the Tower within the park, now the site of the Royal Observatory, which was then called Greenwich Castle; and likewise newly erected the Palace on the spot where the West wing of the Royal Hospital now stands, which he named, from its agreeable situation, L' Pleazaunce, or Placentia; this name, however, was not commonly made use of until the reign of Henry VIII.

At Duke Humphrey's death* in 1447, the Manor reverted to the crown. King Edward the IV expended considerable sums in enlarging and beautifying the Palace; in 1465 he granted it, with the

* Duke Humphrey was Regent of England during the minority of King Henry VI, and for his many virtues was styled the "Father of his Country." He excited the envy of Queen Margaret from his strong opposition to her marriage with Henry, which induced her to enter into a confederacy with the Cardinal of Winchester and the Earl of Suffolk; who, strengthened by her assistance, and incited by their common hatred of the patriotic Duke, basely assassinated him at St. Edmondsbury, Suffolk, Feb. 28th, 1447. He was a generous patron to men of science, and the most learned person of his age: he founded at Oxford one of the first public libraries in England. Leylande, in his "Laboryeuse Journey," says, "Humfrey, the good Duke of Glocestre, from the faver he bare to good letters, purchased a wonderfull nombre of bokes in all scyences, whereof he frely gave to a lybrary in Oxforde a hondred and xxix fayre volumes." He was buried in the old church of St. Albans, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory.

Manor and Town of Greenwich and the Park there, to Elizabeth his Queen. In this reign a royal joust was performed at Greenwich, on the occasion of the marriage of Richard, Duke of York, with Anne Mowbray. In 1482, Mary, the King's daughter, died here: she was betrothed to the King of Denmark, but died before the solemnization of the marriage.

This Manor with the appertenances coming into the possession of Henry VII by the imprisonment of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV,* he enlarged the Palace, and added a brick front towards the water-side; finished the Tower in the Park began by Duke Humphrey; and built a Convent adjoining the Palace for the Observant or Grey Friars, who came to Greenwich about the latter end of the reign of Edward IV (from whom they obtained, in 1480, "by means of Sir William Corbridge, a Chauntrie, with a little Chapel of the Holy Cross.")† This Convent, after its dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII, was re-founded by Queen Mary, and finally suppressed by Elizabeth in 1559.

King Henry VIII was born at Greenwich, June 28th, 1491, and baptized in the Parish Church by the Bishop of Exeter, Lord Privy Seal. This Monarch, as he exceeded all his predecessors in the

* Henry VII, on some frivolous pretence, committed her to close confinement in the nunnery at Bermondsey, where, some years after, she ended her life in poverty and solitude.

† Lambarde's Perambulation of Kent, p. 432.

grandeur of his buildings, so he spared no expense to render this palace magnificent; and, perhaps, from partiality to the place of his birth, resided chiefly at it, neglecting the Palace at Eltham, which had been the favorite residence of his ancestors. Many sumptuous banquets, revels, and solemn jousts, for which his reign was celebrated, were held at his Manor of Pleazaunce. In 1509, June 3rd, Henry's marriage with Catherine of Arragon, was solemnized here. In 1511, on May-day, "the King lying at Grenewich, rode to the wodde to fetch May; and after, on the same day, and the two dayes next ensuing, the King, Sir Edward Howard, Charles Brandon, and Sir Edward Nevill, as challengers, held justes against all comers. On the other parte, the Marquis Dorset, the Earls of Essex and Devonshire, with other, as defendauntes, ranne againste them, so that many a sore stripe was given, and many a staffe broken."* On May 15th, other jousts were held, as also in 1516, 1517, and 1526. In 1512 the King kept his Christmas at Greenwich "with great and plentiful cheer;"† and in 1513,

* Holinshed's Chronicles.

† "The King, after Parliament was ended, kept a solempne Christemas at Grenewiche to chere his nobles, and on the twelfe daie at night, came into the hall a mount, called the riche mount. The mount was set ful of riche flowers of silke, and especially full of brome slippes full of coddes; the braunches wer grene sattin, and the flowers flat gold of damaske, whiche signified Plantagenet. On the top stode a goodly bekon, gevyng light;

“with great solemnity, dancing, disguisings, and mummeries, in a most princely manner,”* also in 1521, 1525, 1527, 1533, 1537, and 1543. On Feb. 8, 1515, Princess Mary, afterwards Queen, was born here: and on May 13th, the marriage of Mary, Queen Dowager of France (Henry’s sister), with Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, was publicly solemnized in the Parish Church. In 1527, the

rounde about the bekon sat the Kyng and five other, al in coates and cappes of right crimosin velvet, enbroudered with flat golde of damaske; the coates set full of spangelles of gold. And four woodhouses drewe the mount till it came before the Quene, and then the Kyng and his compaignie disceded and daunced; then sodainly the mount opened and out came sixe ladies, all in crimosin satin and plunket enbroudered with gold and perle, and French hoddies on their heddes, and thei daunced alone. Then the lordes of the mount took the ladies and daunced together; and the ladies re-entred, and the mount closed, and so was conveighed out of the hall. Then the Kyng shifted hyma and came to the Quene, and sat at the banquete whiche was very sumptuous.—*Hall’s Chronicles*.

* At this festival was introduced the first Masquerade ever seen in England: the following account of it and the other festivities of this Christmas may not prove uninteresting, as it affords some insight to the amusements of that period. “The Kyng this yere kept the feast of Christmas at Grenewich, wher was such abundance of viandes served to all comers of any honest behaviors, as hath been few times seen; and against New-yere’s night was made, in the hall, a castle, gates, towers, and dungeon, garnished with artillerie and weapon, after the most warlike fashion; and on the frount of the castle was written, *Le Fortresse dangerus*; and within the castle wer six ladies clothed in russet

embassy from the French King to Henry VIII was received here. This embassy, that it might correspond with the English Court in magnificence, consisted of eight persons of high quality, attended by six hundred horse; they were received with the greatest honors, "and entertained after a more sumptuous manner than had ever been seen before." In 1533, Sept. 7th, the Princess Elizabeth, after-

satin laide all over with leues of golde, and every owde knit with laces of blewe silke and golde; on ther heddes coyfes and cappes all of gold. After this castle had been caried about the hal, and the Quene had behelde it, in came the Kyng with five other appareled in coates, the one halfe of russet satyn spangled with spangels of fine gold, the other halfe rich clothe of gold; on ther heddes caps of russet satin, embroudered with workes of fine gold bullion. These six assaulted the castle, the ladies seying them so lustie and coragious wer content to solace with them, and upon further comunicacion to yeld the castle, and so thei came down and daunced a long space. And after the ladies led the knightes into the castle, and then the castle sodainly vanished out of ther sightes. On the daie of the Epiphanie at night, the Kyng with xi other wer disguised after the maner of Italie, called a maske, a thing not seen afore in Englande; thei wer appareled in garmentes long and brode, wrought all with gold, with visers and cappes of gold; and after the banket doen, these maskers came in with six gentlemen disguised in silke, bearing staffe torches, and desired the ladies to daunce; some were content, and some that knewe the fashion of it refused, because it was not a thing commonly seen. And after thei daunced and commoned together, as the fashion of the maske is, thei tooke their leave and departed, and so did the Quene and all the ladies."—*Half's Chronicles*.

wards Queen, was born here. In 1536, on May-day, after a tournament, Anne Boleyn, the mother of the Princess Elizabeth, was arrested here by the King's order.* In 1540, Jan. 6th, his marriage with Anne of Cleves was solemnized here,† "and aboute her marying ring was written GOD SEND ME WEL TO KEPE." In 1543, the King entertained twenty-one of the Scottish nobility here, whom he had taken prisoners at Salem Moss, and gave them their liberty without ransom.

King Edward VI also resided at this Manor, where he kept his Christmas in 1552; he died here July 6th, 1553.

Queen Elizabeth made several additions to the Palace, where she kept a regular Court. In 1559, July 2nd, she was entertained by the Citizens of London with a muster of 1,400 men, and a mock fight, in Greenwich Park; and on the 10th of the same month, she gave a joust, mask, and sumptuous banquet in the Park, to several Ambassadors, Lords, and Ladies. At a Council held at Greenwich the same year, it was determined to be contrary to law for any Nuncio from the Pope to enter this realm.

* She was beheaded on the 19th of the same month in the Tower of London.

† This was a most unpropitious alliance, for Henry took a dislike to Anne of Cleves immediately after their marriage. Cromwell, Earl of Essex, the wise and faithful minister of this ungrateful King, was beheaded in the Tower, in 1540, because he had been the principal promoter of this marriage.

In 1585, June 29th, she received here the Deputies of the United Provinces, who offered her the sovereignty of the Low Countries, which, from motives of state policy, she declined to accept. In 1586, she received the Danish Ambassador at Greenwich; and in 1597, July 25th, the Ambassador from the King of Poland.

King James I erected a new brick front to the Palace towards the gardens, and his Queen, Anne of Denmark, laid the foundation of the "House of Delight," near the Park, in which the Governor of Greenwich Hospital afterwards resided, and is now the centre building of the Naval Asylum. In 1606, the Princess Mary, daughter of James I, was christened at Greenwich with great solemnity.

King Charles I resided much at the Palace previous to the breaking out of the Parliamentary War; and Henrietta Maria, his Queen, finished the House* near the Park began by Anne of Denmark, and furnished it so magnificently that it far surpassed all other houses of the kind in England.† King Charles left the Palace with the fatal resolution of taking his journey northward, and the turbulent state of the times prevented him from again visiting it. In 1642, on the night of Nov. 3rd, three companies of foot and a troop of horse, were sent by the Parliament to search the Town and Palace of Greenwich

* Inigo Jones was employed as the architect, and it was completed in 1635, as appears by a date still to be seen on the front of the building. † Hasted's Kent, vol. 1, p. 21.

for concealed arms; they found only a few two-handed swords without scabbards.*

On the King's death in 1648, the Manor and Palace of Greenwich were taken possession of by the state; and in 1652, the Commonwealth requiring money for their navy, the House of Commons, on Nov. 27th, resolved "that Greenwich House, Park, and Lands, should be immediately sold for ready money." On Dec. 6th they ordered a survey and valuation to be made of them; and on the 31st passed an ordinance for carrying the sale into execution. Particulars were accordingly made out of the Hoby Stables, and other smaller premises belonging to the Palace, which were sold, but no further proceedings as to the rest were made at this time.

In the year 1654, the Sub-committee of the revenue, finding that the House and Park of Greenwich, Hampton Court House and Park, Somerset House, and other Palaces, still remained unsold, and which Palaces had been valued at £25,969. 6s. 6d., decided that they were fit places for the residence of the Lord Protector, and therefore were not to be valued at any gross sum, but that they might be allowed towards the revenue, as returned in the survey, at the yearly rent of £1,254. 13s. 4d.†

On the restoration of King Charles II in 1660,

* Lyson's Environs, vol. 4, p. 437.

† Hasted's Kent, vol. 1, p. 22.

this Manor, with the Park, and other royal demesnes, again reverted to the crown. The King, finding the old palace greatly decayed by time, and the want of necessary repairs during the Commonwealth, ordered it to be taken down,* and commenced the erection of a most magnificent palace of freestone, one wing of which was completed at the cost of £36,000. (now forming, with additions, the west wing of the Royal Hospital), where he occasionally resided, but made no further progress in the work. The Architect he employed was Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones, from whose papers the designs were made.

In 1685 it was made part of the jointure of Queen Mary, consort of King James II, but remained in the same state till the reign of William and Mary.

* At the entrance to Queen Elizabeth's Armoury in the Tower of London, are two grotesque figures, of the time of Edward VI, called "Gin" and "Beer," which Dr. Meyrick supposes to have been originally placed in the great Hall of the Palace at Greenwich, over the doors which led to the buttery and larder.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL.

This magnificent structure, which is the finest specimen of Grecian architecture in this, or almost any other, country, is situated on the southern banks of the Thames, between that River and Greenwich Park, and is, both as a building and as an institution, entitled to the greatest admiration.

It was established in the reign of William and Mary,* who, for the encouragement of Seamen and the improvement of navigation, by their letters patent, dated Oct. 25th, 1694, granted to Sir John Somers, Knt., Keeper of the Great Seal; Thomas, Duke of Leeds; Thomas, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery; Charles, Duke of Shrewsbury; Sidney, Lord Godolphin; and others;—"all that piece or parcell of ground situate, lying, and being within the Parish of East Greenwich, and being parcell or reputed parcell of our Mannor of East Greenwich aforesaid, containing in the whole, by admeasurement, eight acres, two roods, and thirty-two square

* Queen Mary, who was the first projector of this charitable undertaking, died Dec. 28th, 1694, two months after the grant was made for carrying it into effect.

perches," and "all that capital messuage lately built, or in building, by our royall uncle, King Charles II, and still remaining unfinished, commonly called by the name of our Palace at Greenwich, standing upon the piece or parcell of ground aforesaid; and those edifices and tofts called the chapel and vestry there;" and other tenements; to erect and found a Hospital "for the reliefe and support of Seamen* serving on board the ships or vessells belonging to the Navy Royall of us, our heires, or successors; or imploy'd in our or their service at sea; who, by reason of age, wounds, or other disabilities, shall be incapable of further service at sea, and be unable to maintain themselves: and also for the sustentation of the widows, and maintenance and education of the children of Seamen happening to be slaine or disabled in such sea service."†

On March 12th, 1695, the King appointed nearly two hundred Commissioners; including George, hereditary Prince of Denmark; the principal Officers of State; the Archbishops; Bishops; Judges; the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London; and the Masters, Wardens, &c., of the Trinity House; who held their first meeting at Guildhall, London, May 5th, 1695. At their second meeting, on the 17th

* Chelsea Hospital, for the reception of soldiers, was founded twelve years previous.

† See Cooke and Maule's "Historical Account of the Royal Hospital," from which many of the following particulars are extracted.

of the same month, they appointed a Committee to view the ground which had been granted, who reported that King Charles's unfinished Palace might, with an addition on the western side, be made capable of receiving three or four hundred Seamen. Shortly after this a Grand Committee was chosen, consisting of sixty persons, who subdivided themselves into Committees for the fabric, the revenue, and the constitution.

In 1695, the King granted £2,000. per annum, towards building the Hospital, and nearly £8,000. was subscribed in that year by various individuals, for the same laudable purpose.

The plans which the Committee had caused to be prepared for the proposed additions, having received the King's approbation, the foundation of the new bass-building, adjoining the Palace, was laid June 30th, 1696, by John Evelyn, Esq.,* Treasurer, and was completed two years afterwards, the Architect being Sir Christopher Wren, who generously undertook the office without any emolument.

In 1698, Sir Christopher Wren submitted to the

* "June 30th, 1696, I went with a Select Committee of the Commissioners for Greenwich Hospital, and with Sir Christopher Wren, where with him I laid the first stone of the intended foundation, precisely at five o'clock in the evening, after we had dined together: Mr. Flamstead, the King's Astronomical Professor, observing the punctual time by instruments."—*Evelyn's Diary*. Evelyn was Treasurer to the Institution till 1703: during the time he held the Office, the sum expended in building was £89,364. 14s. 8d.

Committee a plan for a large dining hall, (now the Painted Hall,) which being approved of by them, the necessary portion of ground was immediately laid out, and the work prosecuted with such diligence, that the whole was roofed in and the dome erected by August, 1703, forming what is called **King William's Building**.

The foundation of **Queen Anne's Building**, (which name was given to it on that Queen's accession to the throne,) was also laid in 1698.

In 1699 the foundation of **Queen Mary's Building** was laid, which, however, was not completed till 1752.

At each extremity of the terrace in front of the Hospital is a small Pavilion: they were erected in 1778, and dedicated to King George III and Queen Charlotte.

In Dec., 1704, the Hospital was so far completed as to be capable of receiving, at the commencement of the following year, 42 Seamen; in the year 1708 there were 300 Pensioners within the walls; in 1738, 1,000; and in 1770 the number had increased to 2,000. The present number is 2,710.

The Pensioners who are the objects of this noble charity, must be Seamen or Marines, disabled by age, or maimed, in the King's service. Foreigners, who have served two years in the British Navy, are also admitted; as also Merchant Seamen who have received wounds in defending or taking any ship, or in fight against a pirate.

The Pensioners mess in common; and in addition to their lodging, clothing, and maintenance, the Boatswains are allowed 2*s.* 6*d.*, Mates 1*s.* 6*d.*; and Privates 1*s.* per week for pocket money. They wear the dress which was in common use about a century back, and each man receives once in two years, a suit of clothes, a hat, three pairs of stockings, three pairs of shoes, and four shirts. Great coats are also allowed to the old and infirm; watch-coats for those on guard; and the necessaries for their bedding are changed as often as requisite. In King Charles's Building is an excellent library for their sole use.

The Widows of Seamen, pursuant to the intention of the Royal Founders, are provided for in this Establishment, enjoying the exclusive privilege of being appointed Nurses. They must be under 45 years of age at the time of their admission; and each receives £8. per annum, besides being allowed, like the Pensioners, clothes, bedding, and provisions. The present number is 105.

The Hospital being incapable of accommodating the whole number of claimants within its walls; a number of Out-Pensioners were admitted on the Establishment, who received an annual sum according to the nature of their wounds, or length of service: these pensions were paid partly from the overplus funds of the Hospital, and the remainder by parliamentary grants. But the funds of the Hospital having been found inadequate to support

this additional expense, the payment of the Out-pensions was transferred to a distinct establishment, by an Act of Parliament passed May, 1829, to be supported entirely by annual parliamentary grants. They are still eligible, however, for admission into the Hospital.

The funds, by means of which this Institution has been raised, were derived from the following sources: the sum of £2,000. per annum granted by the King in 1695, and other subscriptions; a duty of sixpence per month from every Mariner, granted by Act of Parliament in 1696; the gift of some land by King William in 1698; the grant of £19,500. in 1699, being the amount of fines paid by various merchants for smuggling; £600., the produce of a lottery in 1699; the profits of the Market at Greenwich, granted by Henry, Earl of Romney in 1700; the grant, by the crown, in 1701, of the ground where the Market was formerly kept, and some edifices adjoining, in perpetuity; £6,472. 1s., the amount of the effects of *Kid the Pirate*, given by Queen Anne in 1705; the moiety (valued at £20,000.) of an estate bequeathed by Robert Osbolston, Esq., in 1707, and the profits of his unexpired lease of the North and South Foreland Lighthouses (since renewed for ninety-nine years to the Hospital); a grant of land in 1707; forfeited and unclaimed shares of prize money, granted by Act of Parliament in 1708, and several subsequent Acts; £6,000. per annum, granted by Queen Anne in 1710, out of

a duty on coal, and continued for a long term by George I; the wages of the Chaplains of the Hospital, and the value of their provisions, &c., as Chaplains of Deptford and Woolwich Dock Yards, an increase of salary having been given them in lieu thereof; the amount of the half-pay of all the Officers of the Hospital, salaries being allowed in lieu thereof; £10,000 granted in 1728, and several subsequent years, by Parliament; the grant by the King, in 1730, of a small piece of land, with the crane, adjoining the river; an estate given by Mr. Clapham of Eltham, in 1730, consisting of several houses and warehouses near London Bridge; and the forfeited estates of the Earl of Derwentwater, given by Act of Parliament in 1735, deducting an annual rent-charge of £2,500. to the Earl of Newburgh and his heirs male. Several contributions have also been made by private individuals, among which may be noticed £10,000. 3 per cent. consols, and £2,600., both anonymous benefactions; £1,110. 11s. 9d. by Capt. J. Furroyman; £500. by Capt. J. Mathews; and £210. being part of a sum subscribed at Lloyd's Coffee House, on account of an action fought Oct. 11th, 1797.

Its present revenue is principally derived from its estates in the North and its funded property.

By Queen Anne's Commission, dated July 21st, 1703, seven Commissioners were appointed, who were to form a General Court, whereof the Lord High Admiral, the Lord Treasurer, or any two

Privy Counsellors, were to form a quorum: the Governor and Treasurer were appointed by the crown, and all the other necessary officers by the Lord High Admiral, on the recommendation of the General Court, which was held quarterly. The same Commission appointed twenty-five Directors, called the Standing Committee, who met once every fortnight; and vested the internal government in the Governor, and a council of Officers who were appointed by the Lord High Admiral. By a charter, dated Dec. 6th, 16th George III, the Commissioners became a body corporate, with full power to finish the building, to provide for Seamen either within or without the Hospital, to make bye-laws, &c.; and this charter was followed by an Act of Parliament which vested in the Commissioners, thus incorporated, all the estates held in trust for the benefit of the Hospital. By an Act of Parliament passed in 1829, "for the better management of the affairs of Greenwich Hospital," this corporation of Commissioners and Governors was dissolved, and five Commissioners appointed in their stead, in whom the estates and property of the Hospital are vested in as ample a manner as the former corporation held them, but under the authority, control, and direction of the Lord High Admiral, or the Commissioners for the time being for executing that office. A council or board is held every Friday by the Officers for the internal regulation of the Hospital, at which the Governor presides; when delin-

quents are punished either by fines, by wearing a yellow coat with red sleeves as a badge of disgrace, by suspension, or expulsion, according to the nature of the offence.

The present establishment consists of a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, five Captains, eight Lieutenants, two Chaplains, Physician, Assistant Physician, Surgeon, five Assistant Surgeons, Dispenser, and one Assistant, Secretary, Cashier, Steward, Clerk of the Cheque, Clerk of the Works, and other Officers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS.

Greenwich Hospital is elevated on a terrace 865 feet in length, terminating at each extremity with an alcove, and consists of four distinct piles of building, distinguished by the names of King Charles's, Queen Anne's, King William's, and Queen Mary's Buildings; to which may be added the Naval Asylum, or Royal Hospital Schools. King Charles's and Queen Anne's Buildings are those adjoining the river, and between them is the great square 270 feet in width. The view from the north gate, which opens on to the centre of the terrace, is particularly grand; beyond the square are seen the Hall and Chapel with their finely proportioned domes, and the two colonnades, which form a kind of avenue terminated by the Naval Asylum, above which, on

an eminence in the Park, appears the Royal Observatory. (See frontispiece.)

In the centre of the great square is a beautiful statue of King George II, sculptured by Rysbrach out of a single block of white marble, weighing eleven tons.*

King Charles's Building is on the west side of the great square; the eastern portion formed the unfinished Palace of Charles II: it is of Portland stone rusticated. In the centre is a tetrastyle portico of the Corinthian order,* crowned with its proper entablature and pediment; in the tympanum of this pediment is a piece of sculpture consisting of two figures, one representing Fortitude, the other Dominion of the Sea; at each end is a pavilion formed by four pilasters of the Corinthian order, with entablature, and surmounted by an attic with a balustrade. The north front has two similar pavilions, each having its proper pediment, supported by a range of lofty Corinthian columns with entablature; in the tympanum of the eastern pediment is a piece of sculpture representing Mars and Fame, and in the frieze is the following inscription

CAROLVS II REX

A. REG. XVI.

In the centre of this front is a handsome portal

* This block was taken from the French by Admiral Sir George Rooke, and the statue was presented by Sir John Jennings, Knt., who was Governor of the Hospital in the reign of George II, as a mark of respect to that Monarch.

leading into an inner quadrangle, which separates the wing of King Charles's Palace from what is called the bass-building; this part was formerly of brick, but having fallen into decay, it was taken down in 1810, and rebuilt in 1814 in conformity with the general style of the Building. The west front is of the Corinthian order, the centre ornamented with six columns, over which is an attic containing a large panel intended to receive sculpture, it is enriched on each side with pilasters, crowned with handsome balustrades; in the frieze is the following inscription,

GEORGIVS III REX

A. REGNI LV. A. D. MDCCCXIV.

The south front corresponds with that of the north, with the exception of the sculpture and inscription. In this Building are the apartments of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, the Council Room,* Library, &c. with wards† for 476 Pensioners.

Queen Anne's Building is on the east side of the great square; it corresponds with King Charles's Building, except that the pediments are still without

* The Council Room and Anti-chamber can only be seen by permission from the Governor, or Commanding Officer. There are several paintings in each of these rooms, and in the Anti-chamber is also a curious month equation clock, with double pendulum, by Quire.

† One of these, called after this portion of the building "King Charles's Ward," is open every day for the inspection of the public.

sculpture. It contains, besides apartments for Officers, wards for 442 Pensioners.

To the south of King Charles's Building stands that of King William's. In this Building is the Painted Hall, which, with the dome, was designed and erected by Sir Christopher Wren. The tambour of the dome is surrounded by duplicate columns of the Composite order, with four projecting groups of columns at the quoins, and the cupola is terminated with a turret surmounted with a gilt vane. The west front of this Building is of brick, ornamented in the centre with four massive columns of the Doric order, each nearly six feet in diameter, with entablature and triglyphs, of Portland stone. At each end is a pavilion, crowned with a circular pediment; in the pediment at the north end is a piece of sculpture, consisting of groups of marine trophies, and heads representing the four winds. This part was erected by Sir John Vanbrugh, who was Surveyor to the Hospital from 1716 to 1726. The north and south fronts are of stone. This Building, in addition to the Painted Hall and apartments for Officers, contains wards for 559 Pensioners, a dining hall, and kitchen.

On the eastern side of the square in King William's Building, in the tympanum of the pediment, is an emblematical representation of the "Death of Nelson," in alto-relievo, designed by West, and modelled under his direction in 1812. In the centre is Britannia, seated on a rock washed by the

ocean, receiving from one of the attendant Tritons at the command of Neptune, the dead body of Nelson: Victory supports the body with one hand, while with the other she presents to Britannia the trident of the god, in token of the dominion of the sea: behind Neptune, who is seated in his shell drawn by sea horses, is a British sailor, announcing "Trafalgar" as the scene of the hero's death: to the left of Britannia is represented a naval genius recording the victories of the Nile and Copenhagen; before whom is a British lion, holding in his paws a tablet inscribed "Nelson's 122 battles:" adjoining these are the sister kingdoms England, Scotland, and Ireland, with their emblems, the rose, thistle, and shamrock; they are reclining affectionately on each other, and expressing the deepest sorrow. On the south side of the pediment are various naval implements of war, and on the north side is represented the destruction of the enemy's fleet at Trafalgar.

Queen Mary's Building stands to the east of King William's, and contains the Chapel,* a dining hall, wards for 1170 Pensioners, and apartments for Officers. The dome corresponds exactly with that of King William's, and the rest of the Building was intended to have been similar also, but Queen Mary's has been finished in a plainer style. The

* This Chapel was finished in 1789, the former one, with the dome, several wards, and part of the colonnade having been destroyed by fire, Jan. 2nd, 1779.

colonnades adjoining these two Buildings are 116 feet asunder, and are composed of upwards of 300 duplicated Doric columns and pilasters of Portland stone, 20 feet high, with an entablature and balustrade. They are each 347 feet long, having return pavilions at the end 70 feet long.

The west entrance to the Hospital is formed by massive rusticated stone piers with iron gates; the piers supporting a terrestrial and celestial globe, each of stone, six feet in diameter. On the celestial globe are inlaid with copper, in a very curious manner, 24 meridians, the equinoctial, ecliptic, tropic, and polar circles. On the terrestrial, the principal circles are inlaid in the same manner, with the parallels of latitude to every ten degrees in each hemisphere. The globes are in an oblique position, agreeable to the latitude of the place where they stand.

The ornamental iron gates at the eastern entrance are noted for the great beauty and excellence of the workmanship.

THE PAINTED HALL, OR, NAVAL PICTURE GALLERY.

This Hall was originally used as a refectory; but as the Building was enlarged, the number of Pensioners progressively increased, and more convenient dining halls were necessarily provided.

In 1823 it was proposed to prepare it for the reception of a collection of naval pictures, for which

purpose its beautiful ceiling and ornamental walls gave it a character peculiarly appropriate. The plan having been approved of, was honored with the patronage of his late Majesty, King George IV, who presented a valuable series of portraits from the galleries of Windsor Castle and Hampton Court, and several paintings from his private collections at St. James's Palace and Carlton House; and this example was speedily followed by other liberal benefactors. Thus, in a few years, the walls have been decorated with the portraits of most of our celebrated naval commanders, and representations of numerous naval actions in which many of them have been engaged.* The number of paintings is above one hundred.

The entrance to the Hall is through a vestibule, in the cupola of which is represented a compass with its points duly bearing, and in the covings, in chiaro-oscuro, are the four winds with their different attributes. At the base of the windows round the interior of the cupola, are suspended the ancient colours of the several battalions of the Royal Marines, placed there in 1827, by order of his present Majesty, King William IV, then Lord High Admiral, on that corps being presented with new colours. From this vestibule a flight of steps leads into the Saloon or Grand Hall, which is 106

* For an account of these paintings, with the names of the donors and the artists, see a "Catalogue of the Portraits, &c." to be had at the Painted Hall.

feet long, 56 feet wide, and 50 feet high. A lofty range of Corinthian pilasters,* standing on a basement, and supporting a rich entablature, ornaments this Saloon, and from the sides are suspended the portraits and other paintings. In the four corners are colossal statues of Nelson, Howe, Duncan, and St. Vincent. Over the western arch are the British Arms, finely sculptured, supported by Mars and Minerva; and in the frieze round the Hall is the following inscription, "*Pietas augusta ut habitent securè et publicè alantur qui publicæ securitati invigilarunt, regia Grenovici, Mariæ auspiciis, sublevandis nautis destinat a regnantibus Gulielmo et Mariâ, MDCXCIV.*"† The ceiling is beautifully painted in compartments: in the centre is a large oval frame supported by eight gigantic figures of slaves; within the oval are the figures of the royal founders, King William and Queen Mary, seated on a throne under a canopy, attended by the four cardinal Virtues; over the Queen's head is Concord, and at her feet two doves denoting concord and mutual agreement; Cupid is holding the sceptre of the King while he is presenting Peace with the

* So excellent is the deception in the painting of these pilasters, that, unless they are felt by the hand, it is almost impossible to believe otherwise than that they are really fluted.

† The pious regard of Queen Mary dedicated this Palace of Greenwich for the relief and maintenance, at the public expense, of those Seamen who have protected the public safety, in the reign of William and Mary, 1694.

lamb and olive branch, and Liberty (represented by the Athenian Cap) to Europe, who, laying her crowns at his feet, receives the gift with gratitude ; the King tramples Tyranny under his feet, which is expressed by a French personage with his leaden crown falling off, his chains, yoke, and iron sword broken to pieces ; cardinal's cap, tripled-crowned mitres, &c. tumbling down. Just beneath is Time bringing Truth to light ; near to whom is Architecture attended by the little Genii of her art, holding a drawing of part of the Hospital with the cupola, and pointing to the Royal Founders. Beneath her are Wisdom and Heroic Virtue (represented by Pallas and Hercules). destroying Ambition, Envy, Covetousness, Detraction, Calumny, and other vices, which seem to fall to the earth, the place of their more natural abode. Over the royal canopy is Apollo in his golden chariot, drawn by four white horses, attended by the Horæ, and morning dews falling before him, going his course through the twelve signs of the Zodiac ; and from him the whole ceiling is enlightened.

Each end of the ceiling is raised in perspective, with a balustrade and elliptic arches, supported by groups of stone figures, which form a gallery of the whole breadth of the hall ; in the centre of this gallery going into the upper hall is seen, as though on the stocks, the tafferil of the Blenheim man-of-war, with her galleries and port-holes open ; towards her Victory is flying with spoils taken from the

enemy. Before this ship is a figure representing the City of London, with the arms, sword, and cap of Maintenance, supported by Thame and Isis, with other rivers offering up their treasures to her. On each side of the ship are the arts and sciences relating to navigation; the great Archimedes; old philosophers consulting the compass; &c. In the centre of the opposite gallery is the stern of a beautiful galley, filled with Spanish trophies; underneath is the Humber; the Severn with the Avon falling into her; and other rivers. In the north end of the gallery is the famous Tycho Brahe, a noble Danish knight; near him is Copernicus, with his Pythagorean system in his hand; and an old mathematician. In the south end are portraits of Mr. Flamsteed and his disciple Mr. Thomas Weston. In Mr. Flamsteed's hand is a scroll of paper, on which is drawn the great eclipse of the sun which happened in April, 1715; near him is an old man with a pendulum, counting the seconds of time as Mr. Flamsteed makes his observations on the descent of the moon on the Severn, which, at certain times, forms a roll of the tides, very dangerous to shipping, called the Eagre. This is also expressed by rivers falling, through the moon's influence, into the Severn. The great rivers at each end of the Hall have their product of fish issuing out of their vases. In the angles of the ceiling are the four elements Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, represented by Cybele, Juno, Jupiter, and Neptune, who are accompanied by their lesser dei-

ties, namely, the Fauni, Iris, Vulcan, and Amphitrite, with their proper attributes. At the east end of the oval is Fame descending, riding on the Winds, and sounding the praises of the Royal Founders.

From the Saloon a flight of steps leads into the upper Hall, the ceiling and sides of which are adorned with different paintings. In the centre of the ceiling is represented Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, accompanied by various emblematical figures. In the four corners are the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and between these the four quarters of the world, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, with their several emblems and productions. To the left is a painting in imitation of basso-relievo, representing the landing of the Prince of Orange afterwards King William III. To the right, over the chimney-piece, is the landing of King George I at Greenwich; and on the wall, facing the entrance, are portraits of that Monarch, and two generations of his family, surrounded by the tutelary virtues; below which Sir James Thornhill, the painter, has introduced his own portrait: in the back ground appears the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. On the right and left of the entrance are also allegorical paintings, representing the Public Weal and Public Safety.

In the upper Hall are deposited, in glass cases, several models of ships of war; also a model, cut from her davit, of the ship Centurion, in which Lord Anson sailed round the world in 1740; the

coat worn by Lord Nelson at the battle of the Nile, August 1st, 1798; and the astrolabe of Sir Francis Drake, a curious brass instrument, used for nautical observations.

The painting of this Hall was executed by Sir James Thornhill; he commenced it in 1708, and completed it in 1727, receiving for his labor the sum of £6,685, which, however, scarcely remunerated him for his elaborate undertaking.

It is computed that nearly 50,000 persons annually visit this magnificent Hall.

THE CHAPEL.

This Chapel, probably the most tasteful and the most splendid in its decorations of any place of worship in the kingdom, was opened for Divine Service Sept. 20th, 1789, about ten years after the former Chapel had been destroyed by fire. It is built in the Grecian style of architecture, from the designs of James Stuart, Esq., the celebrated publisher of the "Antiquities of Athens."

Immediately before the entrance is an octangular vestibule, in which are statues of Faith, Hope, Meekness, and Charity, from designs by West, with appropriate inscriptions. From this vestibule a flight of steps leads into the Chapel, through folding doors of mahogany highly enriched; with an architrave, frieze, and cornice of statuary marble; the

jambes are in one piece, 12 feet high, and beautifully sculptured; the frieze consists of the figures of two angels with festoons, supporting the sacred writings. The whole composition of this portal is, perhaps, without parallel.

The Chapel is 111 feet in length, and 52 feet in width: the aisle, and the space round the altar and organ gallery, is paved with black and white marble; in the centre of the aisle is an anchor and seaman's compass. The ceiling is divided into compartments, and elegantly ornamented with foliage, and other designs in the antique style. The Chapel is lighted by two ranges of windows, between which are the galleries, containing pews for the Officers and their families. The lower part of the Chapel is appropriated to the Pensioners and Nurses, and contains about 1,400 sittings.

Within the entrance is a portico of six fluted columns supporting the organ gallery, with capitals and bases of the Ionic order, after Greek models; each column is 15 feet high, and formed of one entire block of veined marble. On the tablet in front of the organ gallery is a basso-relievo, representing angels sounding the harp; and on the pedestals on each side are ornaments consisting of instruments of music.

On each side of the organ gallery are four grand columns, with shafts of scagliola, in imitation of Sienna marble, and capitals and bases of statuary marble; at the opposite end of the Chapel are four

others of a similar description supporting the roof. These columns are of the Corinthian order, and are 28 feet high, exclusive of the pedestals.

Underneath the galleries are ranges of fluted pilasters; the cantilivers which support the galleries are decorated with marine ornaments, festoons, &c., and the pedestals of the balustrade, in front of the galleries, with tridents and wreaths. The tablets in the middle of each balustrade contain the Hospital arms, and the frieze below is carved with foliage. Over the lower range of windows are paintings in chiaro-oscuro, representing some of the principal events in the life of our Saviour.

Above the galleries is a richly carved stone fascia, on which stands a range of pilasters of the Composite order, their shafts being of scagliola, to correspond with the eight columns before-mentioned, and with them, appearing to support the epistylum which surrounds the Chapel; this epistylum is enriched with angels bearing festoons of oak leaves, dolphins, shells, and other ornaments. Between the upper pilasters are recesses, in which are painted, in chiaro-oscuro, the Apostles and Evangelists.

At each end of the galleries are concave recesses, the coves of which are ornamented with coffers and flowers carved in stone; in these recesses are the entrance-doors to the galleries, decorated with enriched pilasters and entablatures, and a group of ornaments, consisting of the naval crown, wreaths of laurel, and tridents. Above the doors are circu-

lar recesses containing paintings, in chiaro-oscuro, of the patriarch Moses, of David, and of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

The communion table is a semi-oval slab of statuary marble, nearly eight feet long, supported by six cherubim, standing on a marble step of the same dimensions as the table; the ascent to it is by three steps of black marble, on which is fixed an ornamental railing, representing festoons of ears of corn, and wine foliage. Above is a painting by West, in a superb carved and gilt frame, representing the "Preservation of St. Paul from Shipwreck on the Island of Melita." This picture is 25 feet high, and 14 feet wide, and consists of three principal groups: the first, which is the lower group, represents the mariners and prisoners bringing on shore the various articles which had been preserved from the wreck: the centre, which is the principal group, represents St. Paul shaking into the fire the viper which had fastened on his hand: the figures above form the third group, and represent the hospitable islanders lowering, from the summit of the rock, fuel and other necessities, for the relief of the sufferers. In the arch above this picture are two angels of statuary marble, one bearing the cross, the other the emblems of the eucharist; and in the segment, between the cornice and the ceiling, is a painting, in chiaro-oscuro, of the Ascension, forming the last of a series of paintings, representing the life of our Saviour, which surround the Chapel.

The pulpit is circular, supported by six columns with entablature, richly carved, of lime-tree. In the six inter-columns are alto-relievos of the following subjects, taken from the Acts of the Apostles:—the Conversion of St. Paul, Cornelius' Vision, Peter released from Prison, Elymas struck blind, St. Paul preaching at Athens, and Paul pleading before Felix.

The reader's desk is square, with columns and entablatures at the four corners to correspond with the pulpit: in the four inter-columns are alto-relievos of the prophets Daniel, Micah, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The organ is by Green and is considered a very fine instrument.

THE INFIRMARY, ETC.

The Infirmary is without the walls, to the west of the Hospital, and was erected in 1763: a portion of it was destroyed by fire in the year 1811, happily without being attended with any loss of life. It is a quadrangular building of brick, two stories in height, containing sixty-four rooms, each capable of accommodating four patients. It contains also a chapel, surgery, and dispensary, and apartments for a Physician, Surgeon, Dispenser, and their assistants. Adjacent to the Infirmary is a low building, called the Helpless Ward, for the accom-

modation of 117 helpless Pensioners and their Nurses ; it is furnished with a good medical library, and also with hot and cold baths.

Opposite the Infirmary, to the southward, is the cemetery of the Hospital, containing about two acres and a half of ground, which was appropriated for that purpose in 1749: there are various monuments in it to the memory of different Officers of the Institution.

To the north of the Infirmary, near the river is the Hospital brewhouse, an extensive building, recently erected.

Opposite the east gate of the Hospital is a building containing the Commissioners' board-room, and the necessary offices for the secretary, cashier, steward, clerk of the check, and other civil officers of the Establishment: this building was formerly called the chest office, and occupies a site of ground on which stood the King's Arms Tavern.

CHAPTER V.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOLS.

This extensive and liberal institution for the clothing, maintenance, and education of the children of Seamen, had its origin in the establishment of the Royal Hospital, in which 200 Seamen's sons were educated. In 1821, the Naval Asylum, which had been removed from Paddington to Greenwich in 1807, and hitherto formed a separate establishment, was connected with this school, and incorporated with the Royal Hospital.

The institution at Paddington originated in a fraud upon the public, by a man who, in 1798, collected considerable sums under the pretence of supporting an institution for the education of Seamen's children, which he styled "The British Endeavour." Circumstances having transpired that excited suspicion, his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, who had been a subscriber to the institution, resolved to investigate the matter, and on convening a meeting of the subscribers the fraud became apparent, and the man was committed to prison. The undertaking, however, was of such obvious

utility, that it was resolved to establish an institution of a similar nature under better management. The Duke of Sussex having left England for the benefit of his health, the Duke of Cumberland was appointed President, and the institution flourished for some time, but the number of boys never exceeded 70, as the building could not accommodate more. In 1804, in consequence of some communications made to his Majesty, King George III, by the Right Hon. William Pitt, then Prime Minister, that Monarch resolved to make it a royal foundation for 1000 children, and the necessary arrangements having been made, it became so on the memorable day of the battle of Trafalgar.

In 1807 an Act of Parliament was passed, by which the King was empowered to grant to the Commissioners of the Naval Asylum a house within the Park, at the foot of Maize Hill, for some time the residence of Admiral Braithwaite;* another near the Ranger's Lodge, which had been occupied by the Maitre d'Hotel of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales;† and the Ranger's Lodge in

* This house was afterwards the residence of Sir John Douglas, Knt., and since of Dr. Gladstone, Surgeon to the Royal Hospital: it was taken down for the purpose of widening Maize Hill.

† This house was successively occupied by the Rev. Dr. Clarke, Auditor to the Naval Asylum, and Richard Smith, Esq., for some years Clerk of the Check to the Royal Hospital; it is now in tenure of Lord Auckland, as one of the resident Commissioners of the Royal Hospital.

the Park, commonly called Pelham House,* now the centre building of the Hospital schools. This Lodge was ceded to the Commissioners on the payment of £7875. to the Princess of Wales, for her life interest therein as Ranger of Greenwich Park: in the same year the children were removed to Greenwich, and shortly afterwards the two wings were erected.

The centre building contains apartments for the superintending captain, the chaplain, school-mistresses, matrons, and nurses; and the school-rooms, refectory, and dormitory for the girls. This and the east wing are appropriated to what is called the Lower school, in which are admitted, between the ages of nine and twelve, 400 boys and 200 girls, the children of Seamen in the Navy, or of Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Marines; they are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic: the girls are also taught knitting and needlework, and on leaving school, at the age of fourteen, are placed out to trades, or as household servants:

* This building was begun by Queen Anne of Denmark, and finished by Henrietta Maria in 1635, as previously mentioned; it has since been the residence of Matthew, Lord Aylmer, who was Governor of Greenwich Hospital in 1714; and Sir John Jennings, who held the double appointment of Ranger of the Park and Governor of the Hospital; it was afterwards the occasional place of retirement of the Right Hon. Henry Pelham, when Prime Minister, his wife, Lady Catherine Pelham, being Ranger of the Park.

the boys receive occasional instruction from the shoemaker and tailor, and on leaving school, at the age of fourteen, are apprenticed to the sea service.

The west wing is appropriated to the Upper school, consisting of four hundred boys, the sons of Officers, Seamen, and Marines, in the King's service, and of Officers and Seamen in the Merchant service: they are admitted between the ages of eleven and twelve, receive an excellent practical education in navigation and nautical astronomy, and on leaving school, at the age of fourteen, are apprenticed to the sea service.

The wings contain the boys' school-rooms, dormitories, refectory, and chapel. Each wing is 315 feet long, with handsome façades of the Doric order, and connected with the centre building by a colonnade, 180 feet in length, having two rows of Portland stone columns of the Tuscan order: these colonnades form a place of recreation for the boys in wet weather. Adjoining the western wing is the gymnasium, furnished with a complete apparatus for the practice of those athletic exercises so essential in a nautical education; in part of the ground appropriated for this purpose, is a circle of lofty masts with slighter poles alternately inserted at the top into a circular beam, and in the centre a stout pole, having a horizontal flying-course at the top, with ropes attached, affording a course of gymnastics peculiarly adapted to naval pursuits. To render this gymnasium more complete, a large and com-

modious place for bathing has recently been formed near it.

The grounds surrounding the building are tastefully laid out ; and on the eastern side of it are the wash-houses, laundries, and other necessary offices. On the lawn, between the building and the Royal Hospital, which is used as a place of recreation for the girls, is a piece of brass ordnance mounted, of extraordinary size, taken by Admiral Duckworth, at the memorable passage of the Dardanelles, in 1807.

To the west of the Asylum, near the Hospital cemetery, is the infirmary for the children : this building, previous to the Naval Asylum being incorporated with the Royal Hospital was appropriated to the Hospital school.

The schools are supported from the general funds of the Royal Hospital.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PARK AND ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

This delightful Park is that previously mentioned as having been enclosed by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in 1433, by license of King Henry V.

It contains about 188 acres, was walled round by King James I, and laid out in a very picturesque manner by Le Notre, a Dane, in 1664,* during the reign of King Charles II: it is planted chiefly with elms and chesnuts, some of which are of large circumference.† There is a number of very fine deer in the Park, and many of them are extremely tame.

The views from the hills are very beautiful, particularly from that denominated One-tree Hill:‡

* "1664. This spring I planted the Home-field and West-field, about Say's Court, [Deptford,] with elmes, being the same yeare that the elmes were planted in Greenwich Park."—*Evelyn's Diary*.

† One, a short distance from the wilderness pond, a chesnut tree, measures eighteen feet and a half in circumference.

‡ So called from there having been but one tree on its summit; this tree, however, is now greatly decayed, and six others have lately been planted near it. Some years since it was called Five-tree Hill.

from this hill the eye embraces in its extensive range the fine lawns and diversified foliage of the Park, the splendid Hospital for Seamen, the winding Thames with its surface crowded with vessels of all descriptions, the rich flat coast of Essex, the Metropolis with its numerous buildings, and the verdant hills of Surrey; forming, altogether, an unique and pleasing view.

A project was in contemplation about the year 1816 of raising a monumental trophy, in commemoration of the battle of Trafalgar, on the summit of Castle Hill, near the Observatory, which was relinquished for want of sufficient funds. This trophy was intended to have been elevated to a height of about 230 feet, and, had it been carried into effect, would have presented a handsome appearance from the river.

The Ranger's house is on the south-west side of the Park, facing Blackheath. The site of this house was leased in 1694 to Nicholas Lock, merchant; and in 1753, Philip, Earl of Chesterfield, purchased the assignment of a part of this ground which was then occupied by a house in tenure of Dr. Stephen Waller; the Earl enlarged the house, and made it, for several years, his occasional residence, from which it was called Chesterfield House, and the avenue of trees in front of it derived the name of Chesterfield Walk. The late Earl, in 1782, assigned it to Richard Hulse, Esq.; in 1807, the lease was purchased by her Serene Highness the Dowager

Duchess of Brunswick, and on her decease, by the crown. It is now called the Ranger's Lodge, and is occupied by her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester, who was appointed Ranger of the Park in 1816.

On the south-west side of the Park, above the summit of the hill, are several barrows or tumuli, which are supposed to have been the burial places of the Danes, during their encampment on Blackheath. Some of them were opened in 1784, by Mr. Douglas, who found in them spear-heads, human bones and hair, knives, fragments of woollen cloth, and broad-headed nails with decayed wood adhering to them.

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

The Observatory, from the meridian of which the degrees of longitude in all English maps and charts are calculated, stands on an eminence nearly in the centre of the Park, on the site of the Tower built by Duke Humphrey. This Tower was repaired, in 1526, by King Henry VIII, and was used sometimes as a habitation for the younger branches of the Royal Family; sometimes as the residence of a favorite mistress;* also as a prison; and occasion-

* "The King," (Henry VIII,) says Puttenham in his "Art of English Poesy," "having Flamock with him in his barge, going from Westminster to Greenwich, to visit a fayre lady

ally as a place of defence. In 1482, Mary of York, fifth daughter of Edward IV, died at this Tower. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was called "Mirefleur," and the Earl of Leicester was confined in it, when he had incurred the Queen's displeasure by marrying the Countess of Essex. Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, Lord Privy Seal, and the founder of Norfolk College in this Parish, had a grant of the Tower from King James I, which he enlarged and beautified, making it his principal residence. In 1633, Elizabeth, Countess of Suffolk, died here. In 1642, being then called "Greenwich Castle," it was considered of so much importance as a place of defence, that the Parliament took immediate measures to secure it.

After the Restoration, M. de St. Pierre, a Frenchman, who came to London about 1675, having applied for a reward to King Charles II, for his discovery of a method of finding the longitude by the moon's distance from a star, a commission was appointed to investigate his pretensions, and Mr. Flamstead, one of the commissioners, required him to find the longitude of a given place from certain data which he supplied him with : St. Pierre being incapable of doing this, asserted that the data were false ; Mr. Flamstead contended that they were

whom the King loved, who was lodged in the Tower in the Park ; the King coming within sight of the Tower, and being disposed to be merrie, said 'Flamock, let us run.' "

true, but admitted that nothing certain could be deduced from them, for want of more correct tables of the moon, and more exact situations of the fixed stars, than Tycho's observations, made with plain sight, afforded. This being represented to Charles II, that Monarch declared that his pilots and sailors should no longer be in want of such assistance, and resolved to establish an Observatory, for the purpose of making astronomical observations, as a means of discovering that great desideratum, the longitude at sea.

On the recommendation of Sir Jonas Moor, his Majesty appointed Mr. Flamstead Astronomer Royal, who, though but a young man,* had already distinguished himself in his profession. Various places were proposed for the site of the Observatory, and among others Hyde Park, and the Polemical College at Chelsea, (now the Hospital,) which last place Mr. Flamstead approved of, but on the suggestion of Sir Christopher Wren, the site of Greenwich Castle was selected on account of its preferable situation.† The King granted the sum of £500. towards the building, besides the materials

* He was born in 1646, and, previous to the erection of this Observatory, made his observations in a large turret of the building called the "White Tower," in the Tower of London, which turret is still called the "Observatory."

† The Observatory is 214 feet, St. Paul's Cathedral 400 feet, and Shooter's Hill Castle 446 feet, above the level of the sea.

of the Castle, which was to be pulled down, and a quantity of bricks from a spare stock at Tilbury Fort.

The foundation was laid August 10th, 1675, and in the month of August in the succeeding year, Mr. Flamsteed was put in possession of the Observatory, which, from him, has acquired the name of Flamsteed House. In the month following he began his observations with a sextant of six feet radius, contrived by himself, and such other instruments as were then known: he was the first person that made use of telescopic sight. He died Dec. 31st, 1719, having held the office, for which he proved himself eminently qualified, forty-three years: the result of his laborious observations were published in 1712, under the title of "*Historiæ Cœlestis*."

He was succeeded by Dr. Hally, an astronomer also of great eminence, who, finding upon his appointment that the Observatory was destitute both of furniture and instruments, (Mr. Flamsteed's having been removed by his executors as his personal property,) furnished it anew, and fixed a transit instrument. A mural quadrant, by Graham, of eight feet radius, was put up at the public expense in 1725.

Dr. Halley died in 1742, and was buried at the neighboring Parish of Lee; his successor was Dr. Bradley, one of the first astronomers of his age. In 1750, many valuable additions were made to the instruments.

At Dr. Bradley's decease, July 13th, 1762, Nathaniel Bliss, M. A., held the office of Astronomer Royal; he died in 1764, when Nevil Maskelyne, D. D., was appointed. Several additions were made, in his time, to the instruments, and in 1767 an order was issued by his Majesty, King George III, that the observations, made at Greenwich, should be published under the superintendence of the Royal Society; they have, accordingly, since been published annually on Nov. 30th, being the Society's anniversary.

At Dr. Maskelyne's decease, Feb. 9th, 1811, he was succeeded by the present Astronomer Royal, John Pond, Esq., F. R. S.

The Observatory is an oblong edifice, divided into four apartments; it contains a transit instrument, for observing the passage of the heavenly bodies over the meridian, which was fixed by Dr. Halley, and successively used by Drs. Bradley and Maskelyne; the mural quadrant, before-mentioned, of eight feet radius, by Graham; the zenith sector used by Dr. Bradley in making his observations at Kew; a six feet mural circle by Troughton; a transit circle by Hardy; and other superior instruments by Herschell, Earnshaw, and Dolland.

On each side of the Observatory is a small building with a hemispherical sliding dome, chiefly for the purpose of observing comets; and adjoining is a house for the Astronomer Royal and his assistants, in which is an excellent library.

Like most of the old Observatories, this was furnished with a deep dry well, for the observation of stars in the day-time, but the great improvements in telescopes rendered it unnecessary, and it is now arched over.

An apparatus has recently been erected on the eastern turret of the Observatory, for the purpose of enabling the captains of vessels leaving the river to ascertain by it the rate of their chronometers, thus obviating the necessity of applying at the Observatory. It consists of a large ball of wood, lined with leather, which, in order to give preliminary notice, is raised, at five minutes before one, p. m., half-way up a pole by which it is surmounted, at two minutes before one is raised to the top, and at one o'clock precisely the ball drops.

The latitude of the Observatory is $51^{\circ} 28' 40''$ north.

CHAPTER VII.

BLACKHEATH, ITS ANTIQUITIES, AND
THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Blackheath—probably so called from its bleak situation, and thence the word corrupted into black—is a beautiful and healthy plain lying near the Town of Greenwich, and gives the name to the Hundred to which it belongs : it is situate principally in the Parishes of Greenwich and Lewisham, a portion however being in the Parish or Liberty of Kidbrooke, and a part of Blackheath Park in the Parish of Charlton.

This Heath, previous to the erection of the elegant villas with which it is now nearly surrounded, was the scene of many important political events.

The encampment of the Danes here, in 1011, has already been noticed ; vestiges of intrenchments were, some years back, distinctly to be traced on parts of the Heath, some formed, doubtless, by the Danes, and others by the different bodies of insurgents that have encamped here at various times. Of these, the most formidable was that in 1381, raised by Wat Tyler, a blacksmith, on account of a grievous

poll-tax of three groats on all persons above the age of fifteen; when the commons of Essex arose, and being joined by those of Kent, began to assemble on Blackheath, June 12th, from whence, having in a few days increased to 100,000 men, they marched to London, under the command of their principal leaders Wat Tyler and Jack Straw, and separated into three parties; one of these proceeded to the Temple, which they burnt to the ground, with all the books and records deposited there;* another party burnt the monastery of St. John of Jerusalem, at Clerkenwell; while the third was stationed at the Tower. Wat Tyler was soon afterwards slain in Smithfield by William Walworth, Mayor of London,† and Jack Straw, with many others, beheaded.

In 1400, Manuel Paleologus, Emperor of Constantinople, who had come to England to entreat the assistance of King Henry IV, against Bajazet, Emperor of the Turks, was met by the King on Blackheath with great parade and magnificence.

In 1415, Nov. 3rd, King Henry V was met here

† “Jack Strawe and Watte Tyler, ii rebellyouse captaynes of the commens in the tyme of Kynge Richarde the seconde, brent all the lawers booke, registers, and writynges within the cytie of London, as testifyeth Johan Maior and Fabiane in their chronycles.”—*Leylande's Laboryouse Journey*.

† On account of this transaction, the King granted “that there should be a dagger added to the Armes of the Citie, in the right quarter of the shield, for an augmentation of the same Armes, and a memory of the Lord Maior, his valiant act, as doth appeare unto this day: for, till that time, the Citie bare onely the crosse without the Dagger.”—*Stow's Survey of London*.

by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, and four hundred Citizens, on his return from the battle of Agincourt.

In 1416, the Emperor Sigismund was met here on his arrival in England, to treat for peace between the crowns of England and France.

In 1431, Feb. 21st, King Henry VI, who, twelve months after his coronation in England, had been to France to be crowned in the church of Notre Dame in Paris, was received here on his return with great pomp, by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London.*

* The following is an extract from a curious poem (transcribed by Sir Harris Nicolas from the Harleian and Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum,) written by John Lydgate, the "Monk of Bury," and entitled "The Comynge of the Kyng out of Fraunce to London," when the citizens of every craft

"Statly horsyd, after the Mair ridyng,

Passyd the subbarbes to mete with the Kyng,"

attended by all their officers and servants.

"To the Blakeheth whanne they dyd atteyne,

The Mair of prudence in especiale,

Made them hove in renges tweyne,

A strete betwen, ech party lik a walle,

Alle clad in whit, and the most principalle,

Afore in red, with the Mair ridyng,

Till tyme that he saw the Kyng comyng ;

Thanne, with his sporys, he took his hors anone,

That to beholde it was a noble sight,

How lyk a man he to the Kyng is gone

Right well cheryd of herte, glad, and light,

Obeience to hym, as hym ought of right."

Chronicles of London, from 1089 to 1483.

During Jack Cade's noted rebellion in 1449 and 1450, his followers were twice encamped "on the plaine of Blackheath, betweene Eltham and Grenewiche:"* he was afterwards slain in Sussex, by Alexander Iden, Esq. (a reward of 1000 marks having been offered for his head); his body was taken to London, and his head exposed on London Bridge. On Feb. 23rd, 1451, his followers came in their shirts to the King, on Blackheath, and begged pardon on their knees.

In 1452, King Henry VI pitched his tent on Blackheath, when withstanding the forces of his cousin, the Duke of York, afterwards King Edward IV.

In 1471, Falconbridge encamped here with his army against King Edward IV.

In 1474, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, with four hundred Citizens, met King Edward IV on this Heath, on his return from France, where he had been, with an army of 30,000 men, to conclude a treaty of peace with Lewis, the French Monarch.

In 1497, June 22nd, the Cornish rebels, amounting to 6,000, headed by Lord Audley, Michael Joseph, a farrier,† and Thomas Flammock, a lawyer, were defeated on Blackheath by King Henry VII,

* Holinshed's Chronicles.

† Lambarde, in his "Perambulation of Kent," published in 1596, mentions that the site of Michael Joseph's tent, commonly called the "Smith's Forge," on account of his trade, was, at that time, plainly perceivable.

when 2,000 of them were slain, and the remainder forced to surrender: Lord Audley was beheaded on Tower Hill, June 28th, and Joseph and Flammock hanged at Tyburn.

In 1519, Campejo, the Pope's Legate, was received on Blackheath with great state, by the Duke of Norfolk, and a numerous retinue of bishops, knights, and gentlemen, who conducted him to a tent of cloth of gold, where he arrayed himself in cardinal's robes, and afterwards proceeded to London.

In 1540, the most splendid pageant, perhaps, of all, took place on the occasion of King Henry VIII meeting with Anne of Cleves on Blackheath, when "more neerer the foote of Shoter's Hyl, than the ascendent of the hyl called Blacke heth Hyl, was pitched a riche cloth of gold and divers other tentes and pavilions, in the which were made fyres and perfumes for her and such ladyes as should receyve her Grace; and from the tentes to the Parke gate of Grenewych were all busshes and fyrres cutte downe, and a large and ample waye made for the shew of all persones." On the arrival of Anne of Cleves, the King proceeded with her and their retinues, in great state, through the Park, to the "court and halle of Grenewych, as they entered which, was shot out of the Tower of Grenewyche, and there about, a great peale of gonnes. When the Kynge's company and hers was entered the Parke as you have heard, then all the horsemen

on Blacke Heath brake their aray, and had lycence to depart to London or to their lodgyng. To se howe longe it was or the horsemen coulede passe, and howe late it was in the nyght yer the footemen coulede get over London Brydge, I assure you it was wonderous to beholde, the nombre was so great."*

In 1645, on May-day, Col. Blunt, to please the Kentish people who were partial to old customs, drew out two regiments of foot, and exercised them on the Heath, representing a mock fight between the Cavaliers and Roundheads.

In 1660, May 29th, King Charles II, on his Restoration, crossed Blackheath on his way from Rochester to London, "all the ways thither," says Clarendon, "being so full of people, as if the whole Kingdom had been gathered there."†

Numerous reviews, &c., of militia and other troops have also, at various times, been held on the Heath.

On Blackheath Hill, about 100 yards to the north of the main road leading to Dover, is a remarkable Cavern, the furthest apartment extending to about 150 feet under the hill called the "Point." It was discovered about 1780, in laying the foundation of a house; the entrance was then through a narrow aperture, but a flight of steps have since been made. It consists of four irregular apartments, in the

* Hall's Chronicles.

†. History of the Rebellion, vol. 3, p. 772.

furthest of which is a well of pure water, 27 feet in depth: they are cut out of a stratum of chalk and flint, and communicate by small avenues; the bottom of the cavern is sand. From the well at the extremity of this singular excavation, it seems probable that it has, at some distant period, been used as a place of concealment, and the general supposition is, that it was used for that purpose during the Saxon and Danish contests, but nothing has been discovered to assist inquiry.

The Watling Street, or Roman Road,* crossed this Heath, which Street, according to the opinion of Lambarde, "began at Dover, passed through the midst of Kent, crossed the Thamise into London and left the name of Watling Street there, from thence to St. Alban's, Dunstable, Stretford, Towcester, Lilburne, and Wreken, thence over the river of Severn to Stretton, and so through the

* "King Malmutius, the British Solon and first law maker, decreed, among other things, that such as were found praying in the temple, labouring at the plough, or travailing on the high waies, should not be impeached by any officer, but that they shoulde enjoy peacable freedome and libertie both for their goods and persons. But, forasmuch, as he had not in his life-time described those waies that he would have thus privileged, great contention arose after his death, which waies shoulde be taken for high and royall, and which not; and therefore Belinus, his sonne and successour, to cease all controversie, limited in certaine, four especiall high waies, whereof this is one." These privileges were afterwards confirmed by Edward the Confessor.—*Lambarde's Perambulation of Kent*, p. 267.

midst of Wales to Cardigan, and to the banke of the Irish Sea."

In 1710, several Roman urns were dug up on the Heath; two of these were of fine red clay, one of a spherical, and the other of a cylindrical form; the former contained ashes, and near the mouth were rudely inscribed the words "Marcus Aurelius IIII;" the latter also contained ashes, and six or seven coins with the inscriptions much obliterated, but on two of them the names of the Emperors Claudius and Gallienus were legible. In 1803, several urns were discovered about a foot below the surface of the ground in the garden of the Earl of Dartmouth, which were presented by his Lordship to the British Museum.

Considerable erections have taken place in the neighborhood during the last thirty or forty years, of which the most recent are the elegant villas in Blackheath Park. This Park forms part of an estate anciently called Witenemers or Wricklesmarsh, which, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, was in tenure of Anschil, and in 1080, during the reign of William the Conqueror, formed part of the possessions of Odo, Bishop of Baieux. At the commencement of the reign of King James I, this estate belonged to Edward Blount, Esq., of the Middle Temple, London: about the latter end of the seventeenth century it came into the possession of Sir John Morden, Bart., the founder of Morden College, who, dying in 1708, bequeathed this estate to his

widow. Soon after Lady Morden's decease, in 1721, it was sold to Sir Gregory Page, Bart., who pulled down the old house, and erected a large edifice of stone, consisting of a centre and two wings, united by a colonnade, which edifice was at that time considered the finest gentleman's seat in the Kingdom.* Sir Gregory dying in 1775, bequeathed this mansion and estate to his great-nephew Sir Gregory Page Turner, Bart., who, in 1781, obtained an Act of Parliament to enable him to alienate; under this Act he sold Wricklesmarsh House and Park, in 1784, to John Cator, Esq., of Beckenham Place, Kent, for £22,550., and in 1787 the House was sold by auction in lots, and taken down.

The estate has since been extensively built upon, and a new church erected on it at the expense of John Cator, Esq., the proprietor of the estate, who laid the first stone of this beautiful edifice, Dec. 20th, 1828. It was built under the direction of George Smith, Esq., architect to the Mercer's Company, after the chaste Gothic style, and contains sittings for 800 persons. The view of the adjacent country from this Park is beautiful and extensive.

Besides the church just mentioned, there are two other places of worship on the Heath, belonging to the Established Church, one in St. German's Terrace, in the Parish or Liberty of Kidbrooke,†

* Hasted's Kent, vol. 1, p. 43.

† Kidbrooke, anciently called Cicebroc, is an extra-parochial district, and had formerly a church, but the inhabitants being

and the other in Dartmouth Row, which is a Chapel of Ease to Lewisham. St. German's Chapel was built by the Rev. W. Greenlaw, and contains about 500 sittings; it is now the property of the present Minister, the Rev. R. B. Greenlaw. Dartmouth Row Chapel contains about 700 sittings; Minister, the Rev. J. Sheppard.

Near Blackheath Park is Morden College, so named from its founder Sir John Morden, Bart., who, having amassed a fortune as a Turkey Merchant, erected this structure in Great Stone Field, near his own mansion, in 1695, under the sanction of letters patent. He placed in it, during his lifetime, twelve decayed merchants; and by his will, dated Oct. 15th, 1702, devised all his real and copyhold estates, after the decease of Lady Morden, to the Turkey Company, in trust, for the support of this College, and for the maintenance of poor, aged, and decayed merchants of England, whose fortunes had been ruined by the perils of the sea, or other unavoidable accidents. The sum of £20. per annum was allowed to each pensioner, which was afterwards increased to £40.: they must be fifty years of age at the time of their admission, either bachelors or widowers, and members of the Church of England. The vacancies are filled up annually

unable to keep it in repair, and the vicarage not being endowed, it became ruinous, and was never restored.—*Hasted's Kent*, vol. 1, p. 43.

by the Governors of the Turkey Company, and provision was made in the founder's will, that, if this Company should fail, trustees should be chosen from among the Directors of the East India Company.

The premises occupy a spacious quadrangle, and are handsomely built of brick, with stone quoins and cornices, having a piazza surrounding the enclosed area. Over the entrance are statues of Sir John and Lady Morden, and in the hall are their portraits; in the chapel are the arms of Sir John, who was interred there in 1708. The treasurer and chaplain reside in the College, and there are apartments for thirty Pensioners. The manor-farm of Old-Court, which is supposed by Hasted and others to have been the site and demesne of the ancient Manor of Greenwich, was one of the estates bequeathed to this College by Sir John Morden, who purchased the unexpired lease from the heirs of Sir William Boreman in 1699, and, in the same year, obtained a grant from the crown of the perpetuity.

The Manors of East and West Coombe are situate on the borders of the Heath, and there was formerly another called Middle Coombe, alias Spittle Coombe, which, in all probability, was attached to that of West Coombe.

The Manor of East Coombe was appended, for several centuries, to that of Greenwich, and was settled, in 1613, on Queen Anne of Denmark for life. It was afterwards leased out by the crown, and has passed through several private families: it is at

present occupied by the Right Hon. the Countess of Buckinghamshire.

West Coombe is held of the Manor of Dartford in this County, and is called in the Rolls of it the "Manor of Coombe West." King Richard II. granted it to Robert Ballard, whose descendant, Nicholas Ballard, in the commencement of the reign of Philip and Mary, alienated it to John Lambarde, Esq., Alderman of London. At his decease it was inherited by his son, William Lambarde, Esq.,* the learned antiquarian, and author of the "Perambulation of Kent," and other works. About the year 1718 it was purchased by Sir Gregory Page, Bart., who granted a lease of it to Capt. Walpole; this gentleman pulled down the old Manor-house, and erected the present mansion at a short distance from the original site. The lease came afterwards into the possession of Charles, Duke of Bolton, who resided here several years with the celebrated Polly Peachem, afterwards Duchess of Bolton:† it has since passed into various hands, and is now in the occupation of Thomas Brockelbank, Esq.

* This gentleman was the founder of Queen Elizabeth's College in the Parish of Greenwich; he died at West Coombe, August 19th, 1601, and was buried at Greenwich.

† Of this lady, Lysons, in his "Environs of London," makes the following mention: "The year 1728 is famous in theatrical annals, for having produced the favorite burletta of the Beggars' Opera. Its success surpassed all precedent: it was acted more

Between East and West Coombe is Woodlands, the pleasant seat of John Angerstein, Esq., whose father, J. J. Angerstein, Esq., erected the mansion, and laid out the grounds about the year 1772. It is a neat substantial building, and the grounds are very extensive, containing a great variety of exotic and other plants: they command a beautiful view of the Thames and the opposite coast of Essex.

On the summit of Maize Hill is an irregular castellated structure of brick, called "Vanbrugh Castle," erected, about the year 1717, by Sir John Vanbrugh. At a short distance from this building are Vanbrugh Fields, in which is a singular house, built also by Vanbrugh, and called the "Mince-pie

than sixty nights the first season. The part of Polly was performed by Lavinia Fenton, a young actress, whose real name, in some of the publications of that day, is said to have been Beswick. Her performance of this character raised her very high in the opinion of the public; and it is uncertain whether the opera itself, or Polly Peachem, had the greater share of popularity. Her lovers, of course, were very numerous: she decided in favour of the Duke of Bolton, who, to the great loss of the public, took her from the stage, to which she never returned; and on the sixty-second night of the performance, a new Polly was, to the great surprise of the audience, who expected to see their old favourite, introduced on the boards. After the death of his first wife, from whom he had been long separated, the Duke (in 1751) married Miss Fenton, who, surviving him a few years, resided at West Coombe Park, in this Parish, and died Duchess-dowager of Bolton, in the month of January, 1760."

House." An arched gateway, with a lodge on each side, now standing some distance within the principal field, appears to have formed the original entrance from the Heath.

The Ranger's Lodge, the residence of her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester, has already been noticed. Among the principal villas on Blackheath may be mentioned the residence of the Rt. Hon. the Dowager Countess of Dartmouth; and one near the summit of Croom's Hill, which was formerly inhabited by Major-General Edward Wolfe; occasionally by his son, the gallant conqueror of Quebec; and afterwards by the Hon. Mr. Lyttleton: it is now occupied by Frederick Heisch, Esq.

Near the south-east end of Chesterfield Walk, called "Montague Corner," was an irregular brick building, formerly inhabited by the Duke of Montague; afterwards by the Duke of Buccleugh; and since by Queen Caroline, consort of George IV, who was appointed Ranger of Greenwich Park, in 1806; during the period she held this appointment, she enlarged the garden attached to the house, by enclosing a part of the Park called the "Little Wilderness;" this ground, to which an addition was made, was attached to Brunswick House when Montague House was pulled down in 1815.

To the south-east of Montague corner is a remarkable mount, surrounded by fir trees, called

Whitfield's Mount, from the circumstance of that celebrated preacher having delivered from it some of what are termed his "field discourses." It was formerly used for proving mortars on.*

Two annual cattle fairs are held on the Heath, near the Green Man Hotel, namely, on May 12th, and October 11th. These fairs were first established in 1683, by Lord Dartmouth, but the days of holding them are different, as will be seen by the subjoined note,† occasioned by the alteration of the style in 1752.

Blackheath, under the Reform Bill recently passed, is one of the polling places for Members of Parliament for the Western Division of the County of Kent.

About two miles beyond the Heath, on the high road to Dover, is Shooter's Hill, so called from its

* "March 16th, 1687, I saw a trial of those devilish, murdering, mischief-doing engines called bombs, shot out of a mortar-piece on Blackheath. The distance that they are cast, the destruction they make where they fall, is prodigious."—*Evelyn's Diary*.

† "May 1st, 1683, I went to Blackheath to see the new faire, being the first, procured by Lord Dartmouth. This was the first day, pretended for the sale of cattle, but I think, in truth, to enrich the new tavern at the bowling greene, erected by Snape, his Majesty's farrier, a man full of projects. There appeared nothing but an innumerable assembly of drinking people from London, pedlars, &c.; and I suppose it too neere London to be of any greate use to the country."—*Evelyn's Diary*.

having been a place for the practise of archery.* This Hill, from a very early period, became noted for the numerous robberies committed upon it. In the 6th King Richard II, an order was issued by the crown to "cut down the woods on each side the road at Shetere's Held, leading from London to Rochester, which was become very dangerous to travellers; in compliance with the statute of Edward I, for widening roads where there were woods which afforded shelter for thieves." The widening of this road in 1739, and the great increase of population in the neighborhood, have entirely removed all danger of robberies. On the south side of the

* Stow, in his "Survey of London," p. 79, gives the following account of King Henry VIII going to Shooter's Hill Wood to fetch may. "On May-day, 1511, the King, with Queen Catherine his wife, accompanied with many lords and ladies, rode a maying from Greenwich to the high ground of Shooter's Hill, where, as they passed by the way, they espyed a company of tall yeomen, clothed all in greene, with greene hoodes, and with bowes and arrowes, to the number of 200. One, being their Chieftaine, was called Robin Hood, who required the King and all his company to stay and see his men shoot; whereunto the King granting, Robin Hood whistled, and all the 200 archers shot off, loosing all at once; and when he whistled againe they likewise shot againe; their arrowes whistled by craft of the head, so that the noise was strange and loud, which greatly delighted the King, Queene, and their company." Afterwards Robin Hood invited them to enter the wood, where, "in arbours made with boughs and deckt with flowers, they were set and served plentifully with venison and wine."

Hill is a high triangular Tower of brick, built "to commemorate the achievements of Sir William James, Bart., in the East Indies, during his command of the Company's marine forces in those seas; and in a particular manner to record the conquest of the Castle of Severndroog, on the coast of Malabar, which fell to his superior valour and able conduct, on the 2nd day of April, 1755." The Tower is three stories high; the summit is embattled and turretted at the angles, and the view from it of the surrounding country, is without parallel in the neighborhood for its beauty and extent.

In the reign of King Henry VIII there was a Beacon on the summit of this Hill, as appears from several entries in the Churchwardens' accounts of Eltham, of sums paid "for watchinge the Beacon on Shutter's Hill."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE PARISH CHURCHES.

The Church of Greenwich is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanery of Dartford.

The advowson of the rectory, which had always been annexed to the Manor, was the property of the Church of St. Peter of Gant, until the suppression of the alien Priories in 1414, by King Henry V; it was afterwards included with the Manor in the grant made by that Monarch, in 1415, to the Carthusian Priory of Jesus of Bethlehem at Shene, and also in the conveyance of it to King Henry VIII in 1530: it has since passed through the same hands as the Manor of Old-Court, being now vested in the Trustees of Morden College, Blackheath. In 1345 this rectory was taxed at twenty marks.

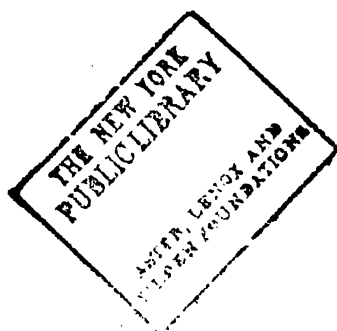
The advowson of the vicarage has been in the crown ever since it was surrendered by the Prior and Convent of Shene to King Henry VIII. The vicarage is rated in the King's books at £21.

The Rev. William Aldwin Soames, M. A. is the present Vicar, who was instituted in July, 1833, on the decease of the Rev. George Mathew, M. A.*

* The following remarks, by a Correspondent in the "British Magazine," on the feelings manifested by the Inhabitants on this lamented Gentleman's decease, are extracted from No. 20, of that periodical, for September, 1833. "On the 4th of last month, [July,] died the Rev. George Mathew, M. A., Vicar of Greenwich, which important office he had held for twenty-one years, to the general satisfaction of a population varying, in that period, from sixteen to upwards of twenty thousand souls. I beg to submit the following hasty sketch of the feelings manifested by the Parishioners since the lamented event:—

"On Wednesday, the 10th, the interment took place at the New Church of St. Mary, when, if any manifestation was required of the regard and affection of the Parishioners for a beloved and lamented Clergyman, it was abundantly testified by the attendance of, I may safely say, upwards of two thousand persons of every grade of society, and with the utmost possible decorum, to witness the funeral rites, which were performed, with the most impressive solemnity, by the Rev. Dr. Waite, who had been the able and confidential coadjutor of the deceased, both previous to, and during the whole of, his incumbency.

"On the succeeding Sunday, July 14th, the Rev. Dr. Waite at the Old Church, and the Rev. Mr. Ainger at the New, where the latter has filled the office of Assistant Minister, with great satisfaction to the Parish, since September, 1825, (shortly after the opening of the Church,) paid a tribute to the memory of their departed friend, which, if we may judge from the extent to which the congregation in each Church were affected during their delivery, will most certainly never be effaced from the recollection of those who heard them, more especially those who





Eng. on Wood by G. Baxter, 20, King Square London.

W. B. Meekle del.

GEORGE BAXTER, 20, KING SQUARE, LONDON.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALPHEGE.

The old Church of St. Alphege, having become ruinous,* the roof fell in about four o'clock in the

have grown old, or have attained to the age of maturity, under the pastoral care of the lamented subject of their grief. As a further mark of the high estimation in which the talents, and ability, and general urbanity of character of the deceased pastor was held by the Parish in general, I may mention that almost the whole of the shops in the Town, and a very large proportion of the private houses in the Parish, were closed during the funeral; and that a special meeting of the churchwardens, overseers, and governors and directors of the poor, has been convened, at which resolutions were passed marking, in the strongest manner, their sense of his inestimable worth, and the consequent loss sustained by the Parish; at the same time sympathizing and condoling, in a most becoming manner, with his amiable and afflicted widow, his family, and personal friends. Perhaps a stronger proof of the good feeling which existed in the breast of this excellent man, and faithful Minister of the Church of England, cannot be adduced, than one which was advanced by the Rev. Mr. Ainger, in his sermon of Sunday, July 14th, namely, that as a Clergyman and Vicar of the Parish, he had enjoyed the esteem of all parties—of those dissenting from the Establishment equally with those of his own flock; and the proof was manifest in the fact, that, during the course of his long-protracted illness, prayers had been constantly offered for his recovery, he believed, in all the Dissenting Chapels in the Parish."

* In a letter in the "Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 75, p. 422, the writer, after alluding to the pernicious consequences arising from the old practice of burying in churches, by which the

morning of the 29th Nov., 1710; and, shortly afterwards, the inhabitants petitioned the House of Commons for assistance to rebuild it. In consequence of this petition, it was expressly provided by the Act of the 9th Queen Anne, that one of the fifty

pavement was defaced, and the windows filled up with odd monuments, says, "but what is worse, I have known the whole building demolished, and thrown into a heap of rubbish, by the digging a grave too near the foundation of a pillar, so that, being undermined, great hath been the fall thereof. Thus fell the ancient church of Greenwich a few years since, but, by the providence of Heaven, no person was therein."

In this church was a portrait, on glass, of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, and several monuments and brasses. In the chancel, in front of the rails, was a stone and brass plate with this inscription in black letter:—

"Entered here doth ly a worthy wyght,
 Who for long tyme in musick bore the bell,
 His name to shew was Thomas Gallys hyght,
 In honest vertuous lyff he dyd excell.
 He serv'd long tyme in Chappell with grete prayse,
 Fower Sovereynes reynge, (a thing not often seen,)
 I mean Kyng Henry, and Prynce Edward's dayes,
 Quene Mary, and Elizabeth our Quene.
 He maryed was, though children he had none,
 And lyv'd in love full thre and thirty yeres
 With loyal spowse, whos name yclypt was Jone;
 Who, here entomb'd, him company now bears.
 As he did lyve, so also did he dy,
 In myld and quyet sort, (O, happy man!)
 To God ful oft for mercy did he cry,
 Wherefore he lyves, let Death do what he can."

new churches, to be built in London and the neighborhood, should be in the Parish of Greenwich.

“ The present Church of St. Alphege, so much and so deservedly an object of admiration, is situated at the junction of London Street, Church Street, and Stockwell Street, on the site of the old

One of the monuments was in memory of Richard Bower, gentleman of the chapel, and master of the children to Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth; he died in 1561. Another was for John Whythe, Gent., one of Queen Elizabeth's footmen, who died in 1579; he was represented in the dress of the times, a gold chain over his right shoulder, a mace, and crown, with the Queen's supporters on his breast. Against the south wall of the chancel was a brass plate, representing a man and woman kneeling one behind the other, to the memory of Anthony Lyle, Esq., (Gentleman Usher to Queen Elizabeth,) and his wife. On the east wall was a rich monument of white marble, with a half-length figure of a man in an alderman's gown, to the memory of Sir W. Hooker, Knt., who was Sheriff of London and Middlesex during the great plague and fire of London, in 1665 and 1666. On the south wall was a monument of the great antiquary Wm. Lambarde, with this inscription :—“ William Lambarde, of Lincoln's Inn; some time Master in Chancery; Keeper of the Rolls and Records within the Tower; of the Office of Alienations to Queen Elizabeth. Founded the College of the Poor at Greenwich, and endowed it. Ob. 1601, Aug. 19, at Westcomb, in East Greenwich.”—*Strype's Stow's Survey*. The last-mentioned monument, when the old Church fell down, was removed to Sevenoak's Church, Kent, by a descendant of Lambarde, where it still remains.

Parish Church ;* it was completed in the year 1718, and consecrated by Bishop Atterbury, Sept. 10th of that year. It was erected after the design of Mr. John James. The exterior is cased in Portland stone, and the architecture is entirely Roman. The façade opposite Church Street is strikingly imposing : four square stone bases, on which are circular piers, sculptured with cherubim and drapery, form the approach to a spacious flight of steps, which lead between two Doric columns, connected by an arch and relieved with antæ, to a covered portico or recess, in the north and south walls of which are entrances to the side aisles. In the east wall of this recess is a circular-headed window, giving light to the altar ; on each side of this window, and of the same description, are two smaller ones, lighting the robing-room and opposite apartment ; and, immediately under them, two square openings, decorated with architraves and tablets. Both this and the western elevation are finished with pediments, which screen the roof, and add harmony of proportion to the edifice ; they rise from a Doric entablature, spaced with the triglyph, crowned with a bold corona or cornice, the soffit of which is enriched with mutules ; the entablature and cornice continue round the building, and the entablature also round the recess in the east façade ; at the angles formed by the pediments, are square blocks

* This old Church was, in all probability, a Gothic structure, as part of the walls which remain in the interior of the tower of the present Church, contain a Norman pointed arch.

with moulded caps, having bold sculptured terminals; the blocks at the extremes of the pediment-base stop the parapet above the cornice. In the north and south elevations, the lower tier of windows are square in form, and set back in double reveals, and have moulded architraves round them in the inner reveal; they rise from sills above the substantial plinth on which the building stands; three stones form the key of the arches, and display that useful and graceful strength so conspicuous throughout the edifice. The second tier of windows are over the lower, and are circular-headed and more lofty, they have likewise two deep reveals, and are relieved by tablets and consoles supporting the sills: Doric antæ, having moulded bases and capitals, and supporting the entablature, occur between the windows. Paved walks lead to the entrances in these elevations, which are each equal to about a third of the flank, and stand in the centre of the elevations, projecting considerably before the main building, and forming, on the ground plan, the sides of a cross; they have flights of steps (under which are entrances to the roomy and well-ventilated catacombs) leading to doors which conduct to the side aisle and galleries; above the doors are repeated three of the upper tier of windows. It is to be lamented that the western elevation, with its tower and spire, so varied in composition, yet so pure in style, has so confined a situation. A lofty tower, comprising three stories,

tapers to a spire;* the tower projects before the centre of the west front, nearly two-thirds of which front is concealed by the lower story; four angular massive piers, the height of this story, with broad sinkings, project forward, supporting circular stone blockings, which form a suitable termination; the west centre of this story is relieved by a handsome doorway, decorated with a bold and massive architrave and pediment; above is a circular-headed window in a double reveal, affording light to the belfry, in which is a fine chime of ten bells; it has an architrave similar to the door, and a plain and bold entablature and cornice finish this story. The second story, also square in form but less in size, is pierced with four circular-headed openings; they have pilasters at their sides, the bases resting on sills, and from the caps spring moulded archivolt, intersected by a key-stone; Ionic pilasters and capitals support an enriched entablature and dentil cornice, and an urn with sculptured drapery stands on each angle. The last tower is circular in form, and seated on a double plinth, the lowest of which has, on each side, a slight arched projection which receives the clock, and is decorated with a moulding and ornament: the next plinth, on which the tower rests, is less in size and circular; this tower

* About eleven o'clock at night, May 6th, 1813, a violent thunder-storm passed over Greenwich, and the electric fluid striking this spire, shivered it to pieces: a fragment may now be seen in the front of a house in Halford's Row, Roan Street.

is pierced by eight circular-headed, and eight circular, openings, and relieved by eight Corinthian columns and capitals, supporting a deep and handsome entablature and cornice, from which springs the dome that supports the airy spire terminating this beautiful piece of architecture.

“The interior is spacious, and planned in the form of a cross; and the Church, so rich with dark oak fittings, highly carved and polished, lit by the dimmed rays falling through the deeply-seated windows, is imposingly quiet, and well calculated to fit the mind for prayer. The architect has here also displayed his taste in Roman composition. A broad ceiling, supported by the ingenious trussing of the roof, spans the whole, and is relieved by a bold enriched band, circling the ceiling in an oval, and forming spandrils in the angles, which, like the centre flower in the ceiling, have ventilators; the angles formed by the walls with the ceiling are relieved by coved groins, springing from enriched corbels. The galleries and pew fittings are of oak, darkly stained by time, and polished, they have moulded panels and a handsome cornice, and are supported by fanciful oak pillars, with carved capitals; the angles are supported by fluted oak Corinthian columns, with richly carved capitals. The galleries on the east wall are held up by iron brackets, and have richly carved oak mouldings, soffit panels, and handsome iron railings. The organ loft is formed of similar oak, and supported by fluted Corinthian columns, enriched capitals, and

antæ, formed of the same material; under, and in the centre, a bold arch, with archivolt moulding, forms the entrance from the west door to the middle aisle; above the arch are the Royal Arms, and a bold modillion cornice fronts the Royal Family's pew, which faces the pulpit; behind this pew is the organ.

"The nave has one centre and two side aisles; the centre is much broader than the others, and has a number of open oak benches: the pew divisions, like the galleries, are of dark oak. The lofty and richly carved pulpit, at the east end of the middle aisle, is also of dark oak, and hexagon in shape, supported by carved oak spirals and pillar; it has a curiously inlaid sounding-board, and a winding flight of stairs; in front of it are the reader's and clerk's desks.* The altar stands in an arched recess, which is ornamented with angle pilasters and enriched archivolt; it has a coved ceiling, which is naturally and forcibly painted to represent ornamental sunk panels; on the walls are painted the emblems of the crucifixion and sacrament, and the oak leaf and acorn; and the painting of a shell crowns the window: these are said to have been executed by Sir James Thornhill. The communion tables are placed in a screen of fluted oak columns,

* The pulpit and desks originally stood on opposite sides of the aisle, as those in the New Church now stand, showing the altar between; but in Feb. 1818, they were removed to their present situation, and additional pews put up in the places they respectively occupied. The tablets containing the Decalogue, Creed, &c. were put up in 1823.

with carved Corinthian capitals, having antæ behind, which stand upon a panelled plinth, and support an enriched entablature and modillion cornice; on each side of this screen project forward, as if to protect it, a circular and angular podium, or base, supporting three fluted Corinthian columns and elaborately carved capitals, with an enriched entablature and cornice of dark oak, of the same plan as the base, and considerably higher than the screen. The floor of the altar is paved with veined marble, inlaid with black, and is raised by two marble steps above the chancel.

“ The lobbies leading from the entrances, already described in the exterior, are ornamented with oak panels, cornice, and carving. At the west end of the Church is a handsome vestry-room, with strong iron chests let into the wall, in which are kept the different registers: opposite to it is the baptistery. This convenient and noble edifice throws a shade over the many trifling buildings of the day, and will long form one of the first ornaments to the Town.”*

On the south wall is a picture of King Charles I at his devotions; on the east wall are portraits of Queen Anne and King George I; and on the north wall is a painting, on board, representing a monumental effigy of Queen Elizabeth, beneath a canopy

* This description of the Church is obligingly furnished by Mr. R. P. Browne, Architect, Greenwich.

supported by Corinthian columns,* underneath is this distich:—

“Olim parva fuit Grenovicum villa, sed ortu
“Virginis Augustâ clarior urbe micat.”

The monumental inscriptions and ensigns of heraldry within the Church when it was repaired in 1777, were then removed; but since that period many handsome tablets† have been erected, among which may be noticed those to the memory of the following persons: J. J. Angerstein, Esq.; Tristram Maries Madox, Esq.; Thomas Blair, Esq.; Colonel George Bridges; Mrs. Amelia Vansittart; Rev. Sir Edward Bate Dudley, Bart.; and Martha, wife of Edward Bate, Esq. A list of benefactors to the Church and Poor, are inscribed on tables affixed to the wall near the south gallery stairs.

In the Church register are recorded the names of

* There is little doubt but that this picture formed one of the ornaments of the original Church, as the writer of the letter in the “Gentleman’s Magazine,” referred to in the note page 95, states that he remembers such a portrait, painted in colors and having the same distich, on the ceiling of the choir, previous to the destruction of that Church: and, as a further proof of this, the following passage occurs in “Southey’s Book of the Church,” vol. 2, p. 314;—“So sensible was the sound part of the nation of the benefits which it had derived from Elizabeth’s wise and happy government, that pictures of her monument were hung up ‘in most London and many Country Churches, every Parish being proud of the shadow of her tomb.’”

† It is remarkable that there is no monument to the memory of Mr. John Roan, who was so great a benefactor to the Parish.

many eminent persons who have been interred here; among them are the following: Elizabeth Stewart, Countess of Carrick in Scotland, 1645. Sir Richard Stainer, a brave Admiral, who distinguished himself in several naval battles, during the Protectorate of Cromwell, buried 1662. Mr. Thomas Phillipott, buried Sept. 30th, 1682, whom Lysons supposes to have been Thomas Philipott, who, in 1659, published the "Survey of Kent," from the papers of his father, John Philipott, Somerset Herald, and assumed the merit of that work to himself. Matthew, Lord Aylmer, who was Page to the Duke of Buckingham, and being persuaded by that Nobleman to enter the sea service, gradually rose to the highest honors of the profession; he was made Governor of Greenwich Hospital in 1714, and afterwards Ranger of the Park; he died in 1720. Major-General Wolfe, the gallant conqueror of Quebec, who fell in the moment of victory, Sept. 13th, 1759, and was buried near his father, Lieutenant-General Edward Wolfe, Nov. 20th. Lavinia, Duchess of Bolton, the celebrated Polly Peachem, buried Feb. 3rd, 1760.

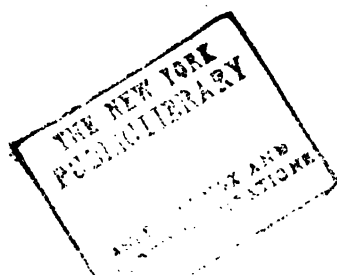
Among other remarkable entries in the register are the following: "Francis North, son of Samuel North, being born without arms, his hands growing out of his shoulders, baptized July 4th, 1619;"* "Nov. 18th, 1685, John Cooper, of this Parish,

* There is a youth now living in the Parish, of the name of Benjamin Kelsey, who was born without arms.

almsman in Queen Elizabeth's College, aged 108 years, and Margaret Thomas, of Charlton, Kent, aged 80 years, were married by license of the Lord Bishop of Rochester, and leave of the Company of Drapers;" however he did not long enjoy his conubial happiness, as appears by the following quaint entry, "Ould Cooper buried Oct. 31st, 1686."

On the east side of the exterior of the Church is a tablet to the memory of Sir William Henry Sanderson, Bart., of East Coombe, who died in 1760, aged 15; on the north side is a monument in memory of Sir James Creed, Knt., and other members of his family, among whom is commemorated Robert Campbell, Esq., who served under General Wolfe at Quebec, and was afterwards Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the Loyal Greenwich Volunteers, obiit Jan. 19th, 1828, aged 90; on the south side is one in memory of Sir John Lethieullier, of Lewisham, Kent, who was Sheriff of London in 1674.

The Church Yard contains about an acre of land; but from the length of time it had been used for interment, it became necessary, in 1716, that other land should be procured for that purpose; accordingly a piece of land nearly adjoining was purchased in that year; to which another piece, being part of Mr. Roan's estate, was added in 1774; and in 1808, being requisite from the great increase of the population, a still further addition was made; forming, altogether, what is called the New Burial Ground. In this ground is a pyramid of brick, supported by an





Engraved by G. Hunter, 20, King Square, London.

CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

W. B. Mackie del.

open arch, beneath which is an inscribed tombstone, in the shape of a coffin, to the memory of Pyke Buffar, Esq., High Sheriff of Kent in 1759; he died in 1769. Near the entrance to the ground is a flat stone with this inscription, "Oh, Virtue these are thy offerings! Sacred may be the remains of Richard Akerman, the vigilant, the humane keeper of Newgate, who was summoned to a better world on Sunday, March 31st, 1754, the christian sabbath or day of rest, he then ceasing from his labours with the comfortable hope of enjoying eternal rest: aged 53."

THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

The Church of St. Alphege having become incapable of affording sufficient accommodation to the Parishioners, in consequence of the great increase of the population; the Rev. G. Mathew, the late respected Vicar (to whose exertions the erection of the New Church may mainly be attributed), in 1821, addressed the Parishioners on the subject, directing their attention to the want which had long been experienced of another place of worship, and pointing out the means by which that object might be accomplished. Application was made, shortly afterwards, for assistance from the Commissioners for Building Churches; and an Act of Parliament having been obtained in 1822, a new Church, de-

dedicated to St. Mary, was built by means of a grant of £11,000. from the Commissioners, added to a subscription raised by the Parishioners.

The New Church stands on a site of ground* granted, for that purpose, conjointly by the crown, and the Board of Directors of the Royal Hospital, on the left of the principal entrance to the Park from the Town. The first stone was laid by her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda, June 17th, 1823, and the Church was consecrated by the Right Rev. Edward, Lord Bishop of Oxford, *vice* the Lord Bishop of Rochester, June 25th, 1825: it contains 1713 sittings, of which number 645 are free.

It is a neat edifice in the Grecian style of architecture, after the designs of George Bassevi, Esq.; it is built of Suffolk white brick, having stone dressings, with a tower and portico of Bath stone. The west front is ornamented with a tetrastyle portico of the Ionian Ionic order, raised on steps, and covered with a pediment. The tower is square, rising from behind the centre of the portico, and comprises two stories, composed of a plain plinth and superstructure; the lower story is solid, orna-

* This ground comprises a portion of the Park, and of a road which led from the south end of King Street to the Asylum play-ground; which road, together with a portion of another called Friar's Road, running in a northerly direction to Romney's Road, was enclosed in 1821. The fair was formerly held on these roads.

mented with antæ in groups of three at the angles, and crowned with a simple entablature; in each face is a lintelled opening filled in with weather boards: this story is surmounted with an attic. The pedestal of the upper story is pierced for the clock dials, and the superstructure is open. At the angles are piers, each composed of an antæ, and two attached columns of the irregular Corinthian order; and an entablature, surmounted by a parapet, ornamented with a series of small arches, having square altars with flames, by way of pinnacles, at the angles, finishes the elevation. At the west end are three lintelled entrances: the principal entrance is crowned with an entablature, in which is inserted a tablet, with a Calvary cross in relief; and immediately above is a composition of sculpture, representing the two tables of the law borne by an angel. On each side of the west front are low walls with entrances, of which that to the right leads to the vaults under the Church; these doors are ornamented with the symbol of the cross, and inscribed "*Per crucem solvimur*"; the piers are surmounted with urns. Each flank of the Church contains a series of six lofty circular-headed windows, the first from the west being, with its piers, a little in advance of the rest. The east front corresponds in arrangement with the western extremity; and in the ends of the walls and the extremity of the chancel, are blank windows.

The interior is decorated in a style of elegance and chasteness superior to most of the new Churches. A gallery is erected on each side, and across the west end; it is raised on square antæ with caps, composed of an architrave, charged with pellets, and surmounted with an echinus. The first range of pews is brought forward, and supported on cantilevers; the fronts form an attic, charged at the sides alternately with the chalice and patine between palm branches, respectively situated over the antæ, and on the western part are also the King's Arms. The ceiling under the galleries is a segment arch, ribbed. The pulpit and reading desk are square, and are situate on opposite sides of the area; the pulpit is more enriched than the reading desk, and is ornamented with inlaying. In the western recess is the organ, tastefully ornamented. The window-openings are relieved by architraves, which finish square above the arches, allowing the introduction of a flower in the spandrils, the whole being crowned with a cornice: below the sills are festoons of flowers and fruit. The walls of the Church are finished by an entablature, composed of an architrave of two facias, (the upper being enriched with honeysuckles,) a frieze, and a cornice. The ceiling is tastefully parcelled out into compartments: a large octagon panel, surrounded by a modillion cornice, occupies the greater part of it, leaving space round it for a single range of ornamented

panels, consisting of caissons with stars, and circular flowers at the angles; in the midst of the grand compartment is a beautiful circular ornament, answering the purposes both of ventilation and embellishment,—in the centre of a recessed circle, richly gilt, is a white triangle, inscribed with the monogram I. H. S. and a cross, richly gilt, this is surrounded with a border charged with stars, and a succeeding one pannelled, the whole enclosed in a series of honeysuckles in relief; there are also two smaller flowers in the length of the panel. In the chancel, two magnificent fluted Corinthian columns, elevated on pedestals, divide the opening into three intercolumniations, the central being much wider than the others; the angles are finished with pilasters, which are also applied at the angles of the body of the Church: all these columns and pilasters are painted in imitation of antique marble. The ceiling of the chancel is pannelled: the altar screen is divided into three compartments by Corinthian columns, the intercolumniations having the usual inscriptions. Immediately above the inscribed tablets is a beautiful painting, by Richter, presented by the British Institution, representing “Our Saviour giving Sight to the Blind.” The arched space over the picture is highly gilt; in the centre is the monogram I. H. S. and a cross, on each side of which is an angel in the act of adoration, beautifully painted in imitation of statuary

marble; above them is the following inscription:—
 “ Ut in nomine Jesu omne genu flectatur coelestium,
 terrestrium, et infernorum.”* [Phil. ii, 10.]

The exterior of this Church† has little beyond neatness to recommend it, but the decorations of the interior are both elegant and appropriate. The design of the chancel is particularly beautiful, and the fine painting, with which it is ornamented, reflects the greatest credit on the British school of art.

In the Church are handsome tablets to the memory of William Curteis, Esq., James Brittain, Esq., and Mrs. Catherine and Mr. John Watson.

* Gentleman's Magazine, vol. 99, p. 396.

† It has been remarked as a subject of regret that an improvement, corresponding with that recently effected near the Church of St. Alphege, is not made in the lower part of Croom's Hill, by the removal of the houses from the New Church to the stabling on Croom's Hill, so as to throw the Church and Park into public view from the Town.

CHAPTER IX.

PLACES OF WORSHIP OF THE VARIOUS
DENOMINATIONS OF DISSENTERS.

There are places of worship in this Town, for the Independents, Wesleyans, Baptists, and Roman Catholics.

The Independents have three places of worship, namely on Greenwich Road, Maize Hill, and East Street.

GREENWICH ROAD CHAPEL

is a substantial edifice of brick, erected in 1800, and opened for Divine Service March 29th, 1801: it contains about 700 sittings.—Minister, the Rev. W. Chapman. Adjoining this Chapel is a small cemetery. A day school for boys, and a Sunday school for boys and girls, is also attached to it.

MAIZE HILL CHAPEL

is a neat brick edifice: the foundation-stone was laid by the Rev. W. B. Collyer, D. D., Jan. 8th, 1823, and the Chapel opened for Divine Service

Aug. 28th of that year: it contains about 1000 sittings.—Minister, the Rev. H. B. Jeula. There is a small cemetery adjoining this Chapel, and a Sunday school is connected with it.

EAST STREET CHAPEL

is a brick edifice, containing about 400 sittings.—Minister, the Rev. Mr. Thurlow.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL

is in George Street, the first stone of which was laid in Sept. 1816, and the Chapel opened for Divine Service Dec. 16th of the same year: it contains about 1000 sittings. A Sunday school is attached to this Chapel.

THE BAPTIST CHAPEL

is situate in London Street, and contains about 300 sittings.—Minister, the Rev. Mr. Belsher.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

is situate in Clark's Buildings, East Street; it is neatly fitted up, and is capable of accommodating about 500 persons.—The Officiating Priest is the Rev. Mr. North.

CHAPTER X.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS, AND ENDOWMENTS.

I. CHARITIES AND ENDOWMENTS FOR THE POOR.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S COLLEGE,

which was the first public charity after the Reformation, consists of twenty small tenements, standing on the south side of Greenwich Road, which were neatly rebuilt in 1819; it was founded and endowed by William Lambarde, Esq., in 1576, for twenty poor men and their wives. Of this number one each is appointed by the Master of the Rolls, and the Master and Wardens of the Draper's Company, in whom the management is jointly vested; one by her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda, as Ranger of Greenwich Park; six from the Parish of Greenwich, appointed by the Vicar and Parish Officers; one from Deptford; three from Lewisham; one from Lee; three from Eltham; one from Charlton, including Kidbrooke; and one from Woolwich. They are allowed a monthly pension,

besides a supply of coal; and a piece of garden ground is allotted to each house. The founder, with the consent of the Bishop of Rochester, composed a form of morning and evening prayer to be used in the College, and makes his Endowment void, if it should become unlawful, by the statutes of the realm, to use it.*

NORFOLK COLLEGE

was founded in 1613, by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, for the support of twenty Pensioners; twelve of whom were to be chosen from poor inhabitants of the Parish of Greenwich, and eight from Shottesham, in Norfolk, where the founder was born. The management is vested in the Master and Wardens of the Mercer's Company. The building is situate at the east end of the town, near the river, and forms a neat quadrangle of brick, with a cloister surrounding the inner court; the Chapel is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and contains a monument in memory of the founder. On a tomb, beneath a canopy, supported by eight arches on square pillars, is a black sarcophagus; and above the canopy is a figure of the Earl kneeling, with his hands raised as in prayer, and his body in close

* For a more detailed account of this and the other Charities, see "An Account of the Legacies, Gifts, Rents, Fees, &c., appertaining to the Church and Poor of the Parish of Greenwich," by John Kimbell, published for the benefit of the poor inmates of the Jubilee Alms Houses; to be had of the Treasurer, price 10s. 6d.

armour; above him are the robes of the Garter. At the west end of the tomb are the arms of the Howards; at each corner is the statue of a Cardinal virtue; and at the sides are Latin inscriptions enumerating the titles and charities of the Earl, who died in January, 1614. This monument was removed, with the body of the Earl, from the Chapel at Dover Castle, where he was originally interred. In the east window of this Chapel is a fine painting of the Crucifixion. The Pensioners receive ten shillings per week, besides several small privileges.

THE JUBILEE ALMS HOUSES.

In 1809, in commemoration of his Majesty King George III having, on the 25th of October of that year, entered the 50th year of his reign, four almshouses, for aged and indigent widows, were erected on the south side of Greenwich Road, from the surplus of a voluntary subscription of £1,153. 13s. raised by the Inhabitants of Greenwich, for enabling the Poor of the Parish to participate in the festivities of the General Jubilee. In 1811 two houses were built adjoining, at the expense of the Loyal Greenwich Volunteer Regiment of Infantry; who also, in 1814, erected two more, in commemoration of the centenary of the accession of the House of Hanover to the throne of these realms; and in 1817 two others, in honor of George III having swayed the sceptre of the British dominions for a longer period than any former monarch. The sum of £200. was

left by Mr. Peter Vernez to build two more houses, which were erected, adjoining the last-mentioned, in 1817; and in 1832 three others were built by the Vicar and Churchwardens, out of funds arising from two legacies, and a reserve of sacramental donations; making a total of fifteen. It is much to be regretted that the income is scarcely sufficient to afford the necessary support to the aged inmates of these Alms Houses, and it is hoped that some charitable endowment will be made to add to their comfort.

Various benefactions for the poor have been made by Massinger, Hatcliff, Plume,* and others, for an account of which see "Kimbell's Greenwich Charities."

II. EDUCATION FOR THE POOR.

THE GREY-COAT SCHOOL.

This School was endowed by Mr. John Roan, in 1643, for poor town-born children, who are clothed, and educated in reading, writing, and arithmetic:

* Lewis, in his "Topographical Dictionary," vol. 3, p. 207, in speaking of the Borough of Maldon, says "Dr. Plume bequeathed £2,000. for charitable uses, and £100. as a marriage portion for five poor maidens of this Parish, and five of the Parish of Greenwich, in Kent, who have lived seven years in one service, and were above 24 years of age." Whether this gift has ever been claimed the Author is not able to ascertain.

the present number of boys in the School is 149. The School-house formerly occupied part of the site of the present Helpless Ward of the Royal Hospital, but being in a very dilapidated state, and a great hindrance to the improvements contemplated by the Board of Directors of that Institution, it was given up in 1808, with the consent of the Feoffees of the Charity, upon the Directors building the present School-house in Roan Street.

To the original endowment of this Charity, as well as others in the Parish, many benefactions have been added, for an account of which see "Kimbell's Greenwich Charities."

This Parish has the privilege of nominating ten boys to the Grammar School on Lewisham Hill, founded by the Rev. Abraham Colfe.

THE GREEN COAT SCHOOL

was endowed, in 1672, by Sir William Boreman, Knt., for the maintenance, clothing, and instruction of 20 poor boys born in the Parish of Greenwich, the sons of seamen, watermen, or fishermen. The present school-house was erected in 1788, and is situate in Church Fields. The management of the School is vested in the Draper's Company.

THE BLUE-COAT GIRLS' SCHOOL

was established in 1752, for the maintenance, clothing and education, of female children of the honest

and industrious poor, and has been conducted on its present footing nearly eighty years, before which time it existed as a day-school. The School is principally supported by the rental of an estate bequeathed by Mrs. Dry,* assisted by annual sermons and subscriptions: various sums have also been bequeathed by different individuals. The school-house was formerly situate in Limekiln Lane, now called South Street, but in 1826 more commodious premises were erected on Royal Hill.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

The National School of Education and Industry for Girls, was established under the immediate care and superintendence of the late Rev. G. Mathew, who first directed the attention of the Parishioners to the want that existed of a school for girls. A meeting was accordingly held in the Vestry-room, Jan. 13th, 1814, on the subject, when a proposal was made by him to establish a School of Education and Industry for Girls. The necessity for such a School was unanimously acknowledged by the meeting, and a subscription was immediately entered into, by means

* Some years since, principally through the exertions of Mr. Kimbell, the managers obtained possession of this estate, which had been lost for a considerable time; but it is much to be regretted that the idea of the value of the property recovered should have operated injuriously to the interest of the School, by impressing a persuasion that the assistance of annual subscribers was no longer necessary.—*Kimbell's Charities.*

of which a school-room was erected on a piece of ground adjoining the Church Yard, on which stood the old workhouse, granted to the Trustees of the School by the Feoffees of Roan's Charity, under the authority of the Court of Chancery, and the School was opened Jan. 1st, 1815. The number of children is 170 ; they are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and plain and fine needle-work, and the majority of them are entirely clothed. This Institution is supported by an annuity from Roan's Charity, decreed by the Court of Chancery ; by collections at the Church doors after annual sermons ; and by yearly subscriptions from benevolent individuals, who have the right of recommending children to the Committee, according to the amount of their subscriptions.

THE ORPHAN GIRLS' SCHOOL.

This School was established on Royal Hill about the year 1811, by Mrs. Enderby, widow of the late Charles Enderby, Esq., for the clothing, boarding, and educating destitute female children, and is supported entirely at that lady's expense. The girls, when at a proper age, are placed out as household servants ; and, with a view to stimulate them to use their best exertions when in service, are allowed rewards by their Patroness, according to the length of time they hold their respective situations. The number in the School has varied from 40 to 50.

III. HEALTH, BENEVOLENCE, &c.

THE KENT DISPENSARY.

This benevolent Institution, although situate in Deptford, claims a prominent place in the record of charitable institutions existing under this head, as embracing Greenwich within its scope of operation : it was established in the year 1783, for the administering advice and medicines to the poor, gratis, and for attending poor lying-in women at their own habitations. Its aid is extended to the Parishes of Greenwich, Deptford, Woolwich, Charlton, Eltham, Lee, and Lewisham, and between Rotherhithe and Camberwell Churches and Deptford. Some idea of its utility may be formed from the statement that since the opening of the Dispensary, until the anniversary dinner in 1833, 111,951 patients have been admitted, and 18,338 poor women attended in their lying-in. It is supported by annual subscribers, who have the privilege of nominating patients according to the amount of their subscriptions. The Dispensary is in the Broadway, Deptford.

THE SEAMAN'S HOSPITAL.

This floating asylum was originally established on board the *Grampus*, a 50-gun ship, in 1821, and claims particular attention on account of its great usefulness, being exclusively appropriated to the relief of a class of men who had hitherto been entirely destitute of a hospital suited to their peculiar habits, being the only establishment for the

reception of sick seamen arriving from abroad, or to whom accidents may happen in the river. It receives sick and disabled seamen of every nation, on presenting themselves alongside, no previous recommendation being necessary, who are maintained, and, when necessary, clothed, until entirely convalescent. In 1831, the *Grampus* being found incapable of affording sufficient accommodation, the *Dreadnought*, a 98-gun ship, was granted for the purpose by his Majesty's Government, and is moored off Greenwich, on account of its central and eligible situation. It is supported by voluntary contributions.

THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Greenwich and Blackheath Benevolent Society has been established about seventeen years; its object being the encouraging and aiding the industrious, the sick, and the aged poor, and distressed married women during the time of their confinement; to each of these classes it distributes relief either in nourishment, blankets, or clothing. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions.

THE SOUP SOCIETY.

This Society was established for the sale of soup to the poor, during the winter months, at the rate of one penny per quart, the deficiency being supplied by subscribers, who receive tickets for disposal according to the amount of their subscriptions: the surplus arising from these subscriptions is distributed in bread.

THE DORCAS PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

This Institution was established in 1831 for the purpose of supplying clothing, &c., to the poor at a reduced rate, a deduction of one-third being made from the prime cost. It is supported by annual subscriptions, recommendatory tickets being allowed in proportion to the amount given by each subscriber.

THE MEAT SOCIETY.

This Society was established in 1832, for supplying the poor with good meat, at the rate of three-pence per pound, the deficiency being made up by subscribers, who receive tickets for their disposal according to the amount of their subscriptions.

IV. LITERARY AND RECREATIVE.

The most extensive Library in the Town is the "Greenwich Subscription Library," in Nelson Street; it is the property of private shareholders, but annual subscribers are admitted by ballot. It contains nearly 3000 volumes, and is managed by a committee of shareholders.

There was formerly a Theatre in the Town, situate in London Street, but it was destroyed by fire, Jan. 11th, 1831. About twelve months ago the proprietor, Mr. Faucit Savill, constructed one, on a novel principle, of iron, all the parts of which are put together with screws, so as to be capable of being taken to pieces, and conveyed to different towns.

In Jan., 1826, a Literary and Scientific Institution was established, but not meeting with sufficient support, it was dissolved, and the books disposed of. The meetings of the Institution were held in a large room at Mr. Metzner's, Stockwell Street, who has since opened it as a Library and Reading-room, and has recently obtained a licence for holding therein the "Greenwich Amicable Assembly;" Lectures are occasionally delivered, and the "Greenwich Philharmonic Society" hold their Concerts there. There is also a Reading-room at Mr. B. Wright's, Church Street.

Concerts and Balls are occasionally held at the Greyhound Hotel, and Mitre Tavern, Greenwich, and at the Green Man Hotel, Blackheath; and a commodious Billiard-room, which is well attended by the Gentry of the Town and neighborhood, has been many years established at Mr. J. West's, Stockwell Street.

A Newspaper has likewise been recently established in the Town, under the title of "The Greenwich, Woolwich, and Deptford Gazette," the first number of which appeared Oct. 19th, 1833.

V. MISCELLANEOUS.

THE SAVINGS BANK.

This Institution, for the Parishes of Greenwich, Lewisham, and Lee, was established in 1816. De-

posits as small as one shilling are received, and interest is allowed on their amounting to fifteen shillings. It is under the direction of a president, vice-presidents, trustees, a treasurer, secretary, actuary, and district and parochial committees. The principal office is on Croom's Hill.

THE SHERIFF'S COURT.

By the Law Amendment Act, passed in the session of 1833, authority was given to the Sheriffs of the different Counties, to try cases on action for sums under twenty pounds, and, incidental to this, the further power of appointing Courts to be held in any places in the County for that purpose. In accordance with this Act, the first Court for this district was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Greenwich, Nov. 30th, 1833, before Henry Palmer, Esq., Under Sheriff of the County.

THE COURT OF REQUESTS.

This Court is for the recovery of small debts, not exceeding five pounds; its jurisdiction extends over the Parishes of Greenwich, Deptford, Woolwich, Eltham, Lewisham, Charlton, Erith, Bexley, Bromley, Beckenham, Chiselhurst, Lee, Foot's Cray, St. Mary Cray, Orpington, and Plumstead, in the County of Kent, and Croydon, Mitcham, Carshalton, Beddington, Morden, Sutton, and Cheam, in the County of Surrey. The business is transacted by commissioners, appointed by each Parish. The

Court-house for this Town and district is in Stockwell Street.*

THE WORKHOUSE.

The Workhouse is a large brick building, situate on Maidenstone Hill. A great improvement was

* The old Court-house was adjoining the Eight Bells, in Church Street, next door to which stood a dilapidated house, now pulled down, noted as having been the residence of Thomas Hack, the celebrated Greenwich Miser. He was born in 1733, and, in 1762, married a native of the Isle of Wight, by whom he had four children: about 1790 he was appointed extra tide-waiter, which situation, however, he soon lost, on account of his filthy personal appearance. After the death of his wife, his penurious habits increased to such an extent, that his children were compelled to leave their home, as he would not allow them even the common necessities of life; after this, his wants being satisfied with food of any description, an expenditure of sixpence a day would have been considered by him the greatest extravagance: he rose early, and made a daily circuit of several miles, for the purpose of collecting old iron, or rubbish of any kind. On Sept. 12th, 1813, he was found nearly smothered in some mud, near the Copperas Works, by the men employed in the erection of the Creek Bridge; it is supposed he had been seized with a fit, while engaged in his usual search for rubbish. He was conveyed to his habitation in Barber's Court, Turnpin Lane, a wretched hovel, in which he had resided for some time, having disposed of his house in Church Street: on the arrival of some medical gentlemen, they ordered him to be taken to the Workhouse, as his recovery was doubtful, and particularly so in such a deplorable residence. Notwithstanding every attention, he died the following day, in the eightieth year of his age; and on searching his house, property to the amount of upwards of one thousand pounds is said to have been discovered.

made in 1827, by the more effectual separation of the wards for the male and female inmates, and the appropriation of separate yards for each. The Churchwardens, Overseers, and Governors and Directors of the Poor, meet here every Wednesday morning to transact Parochial business.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Agents for the County, and most of the London, Fire and Life Insurance Companies reside in the Town.

THE GAS COMPANY.

The Town and neighborhood is supplied with gas by the Phoenix Company of Bankside; their gasometer for this district is in Bridge Street. The Town was first lighted with gas Aug. 7th, 1824.

THE RAILWAY COMPANY.

This Company was incorporated by an Act of Parliament obtained in the session of 1833, for constructing a Rail-road from London to Greenwich. The intended mode is by raising it on arches of such height and width, as will prevent it from obstructing any thoroughfare it may happen to cross.

Application has also been made to Parliament for leave to bring in a bill to continue this Rail-road to Chatham; passing through Woolwich, Plumstead, Crayford, Dartford, Gravesend, Rochester, &c.

CHAPTER XI.

THE POST OFFICE.

The Post leaves Greenwich at nine in the morning and four in the afternoon, and there are three deliveries, namely, at eight and twelve in the forenoon, and six in the evening. Receiving Houses,—Mr. J. Pratt's, Nelson Street, Mr. Bignall's, Park Row, and Mr. Hale's, Blackheath Hill.

BATHS.

Warm, cold, and shower Baths may be obtained at Mr. Barnes', Cold Bath Row, Blackheath Road.

TAVERNS, HOTELS, ETC.

The principal are the Crown and Sceptre and the Ship, adjoining the water-side; and the Greyhound and the Mitre, in the centre of the Town; besides numerous respectable public houses.

PUBLIC CONVEYANCES.

Coaches to Gracechurch Street and Charing Cross, leave the White Hart, London Street, every half-hour, from eight in the morning until ten at night, besides an omnibus which passes through the Town from Woolwich every hour. Boats start from Garden Stairs every hour, and from the Ship Dock

every half-hour, and proceed to the Tower and back. Watermen regularly ply at the different stairs, for conveying persons across the water, or to vessels passing on the river. A ferry was also established in 1812,* for the conveyance of horses and other cattle, and carriages to the Isle of Dogs. The following Carriers leave Blackheath and Greenwich daily, at eleven o'clock, for London and Westminster:—Ambrose and Sons, Old Woolwich Road; Blacknell, Stockwell Street; Coxhead, Lewisham Road; Lawrence, Upper George Street; Radley, Creed Place; and Reeve and Price, Royal Hill.

There are but few manufactures of any extent in Greenwich, the principal are the following:—that of the Messrs. Enderby, on the River Wall, eastward of the Town, for rope and sail-cloth; the copperas works, adjoining Ravensbourne House, the property of Charles Pearson, Esq.; an extensive pottery at the Woodwharf; and a comb manufactory in Roan Street.

There are numerous respectable shops of every description in the Town, vying with those of London both in moderate charges and superior quality of articles: it is also celebrated, together with the neighborhood, for its many excellent schools.

* A horse-ferry previously existed on the present site of Mr. Smith's coal wharf.

H. Richardson, Stockwell Street, Greenwich.

CORRECTIONS, &c.

Page 21, line 5, *for* "laid" *read* "lay."

Page 24, line 4.—The Author, on the authority of Hasted, has stated Elstrudis to be King Alfred's *niece*, but has since ascertained that Rapin and other historians, who are considered of higher authority, designate her as that King's *daughter*.

Page 25, in note line 9 from the bottom, *dele* "in 1272."

Page 28, line 18, *for* "Manor" *read* "Manor-house."

Page 36, line 13, *for* "Hoby" *read* "Hobby."

Page 112, line 13, *for* "Watson" *read* "Wattson."

. Admiral George Byng is stated by a living authority to have been confined a prisoner in that quarter of Greenwich Hospital known as "King Charles's Building," in the year 1756, previous to his execution at Portsmouth in 1757. The individual to whom the Author is indebted for this addition to his work, waited on the Admiral in the capacity of servant to the Marshal of the Admiralty, in whose custody the Admiral then was, and, accompanying his master and the prisoner to Portsmouth, it eventually fell to his lot to place the cushion for the Admiral to kneel upon when he was shot. The individual alluded to is Mr. John Mumford, a resident of Hayes in this County, and is ninety-one years of age. For some interesting particulars of this venerable man see the "Mirror," No. 627.

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| VI. TRIO | <i>O Lord, Thou hast searched me out</i> | CROFT. |

LONDON: JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

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